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THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

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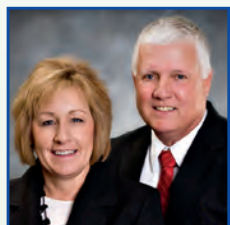
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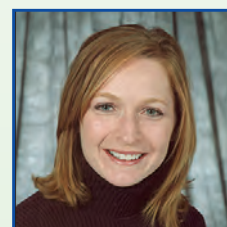
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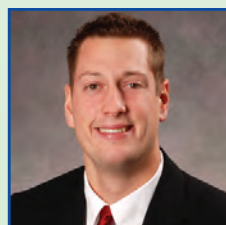
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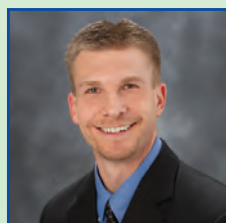
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2015 HUSKER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Results
Sat, Sep 05	BYU	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 12	South Alabama	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 19	Miami	at Miami, Fla.	-
Sat, Sep 26	Southern Miss	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 03	Illinois*	at Champaign, Ill.	-
Sat, Oct 10	Wisconsin*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 17	Minnesota*	at Minneapolis, Minn.	-
Sat, Oct 24	Northwestern*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 31	Purdue*	at West Lafayette, Ind.	-
Sat, Nov 07	Michigan State*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Nov 14	Rutgers*	at Piscataway, N.J.	-
Fri, Nov 27	Iowa*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Dec. 05	Big Ten Championship*	at Indianapolis, Ind.	-

*Conference Games



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BASKETBALL GETS STARTED NOV. 14 FOR MEN, WOMEN Exhibition games to be held before that in preparation

I NEVER THOUGHT IN MY LIFETIME THAT I WOULD GET TO THE POINT IN OCTOBER THAT I WOULD SAY I CAN'T WAIT FOR NEBRASKA BASKETBALL TO START.

Nothing against Nebraska basketball, but it's probably because in its 126 years of existence Nebraska's football program had never lost six games this early in a season.

That's correct.

The 2015 football team is the first team ever to lose six football games before November started.

Just when you think the not-so-proud records can't be broken, Nebraska finds a way to do it.

That and helping opposing players have career days.

But enough about the Purdue game and really the 2015 football season.

No one wants to talk about that anymore do they with the Huskers currently sitting in the cellar of the Big Ten West behind the likes of well everyone.

Anyone looking forward to matchups with top 10 programs Iowa and Michigan State and heck even Rutgers on the road?

This team very well could finish 3-9.

Not even Bill Callahan did that.

The last time the Huskers lost nine games was 1957. That was five years before Bob Devaney arrived in Lincoln.

One of the few bright spots after this ugly game was seeing senior captain Jack Gangwish of Wood River go



up into the crowd at West Lafayette after the game and thank Nebraska fans for coming out and supporting the team.

Gangwish loves and cherishes every moment he gets to wear the Red and White and his heart and dedication to the program shouldn't go unnoticed.

If everyone on the team, including the coaching staff and many scholarship players, cared as much about the Husker program as Gangwish, there is no way that this season would have gone as poorly as it has.

If everyone on the team, including the coaching staff and many scholarship players, cared as much about the Husker program as Jack Gangwish, there is no way that this season would have gone as poorly as it has.

This is the kind of love in the program that needs to be instilled at all levels for the football program ever to return to its glory.

But enough about football.

Men's basketball coach Tim Miles and women's basketball coach Connie Yori will have every chance to capture the hearts of Husker fans who are

eager to support a winning program.

The men made the NCAA Tournament two years ago, but struggled through a 13-18 season a year ago. Gone is guard Terran Petteway, but returning is junior guard Tai Webster, and seniors Benny Parker and Shavon Shields. Also expected to lead is Kansas transfer Andrew White III.

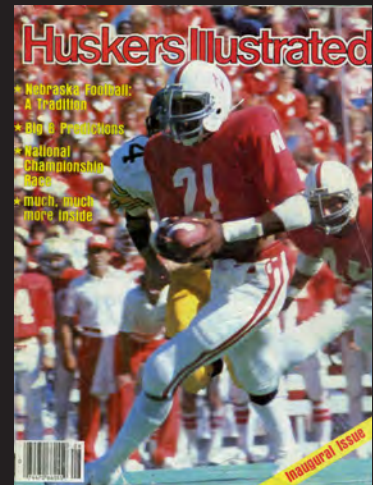
On the women's side, the Huskers lost quite a few players off their 2014-15 squad, but point guard Rachel Theriot is back after missing the last part of 2014-15 with an injury.

The Huskers are shooting for their fifth-straight NCAA Tournament appearance.

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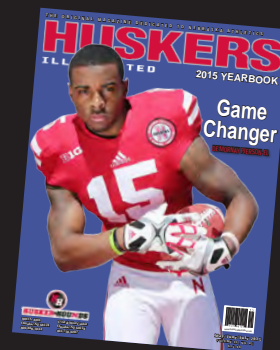
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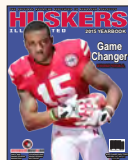
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The next Huskers Illustrated edition, featuring the Men's and Women's basketball previews and Michigan State recap will mail Nov. 9.



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BY **LANNY HOLSTEIN**

Junior guard Andrew White III sat out last season after transferring from Kansas, but he is ready to help lead the Nebraska men's basketball team this season.

2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 5	BYU	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	L, 33-28
SEPT. 12	SOUTH ALABAMA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7 P.M.	W, 48-9
SEPT. 19	@MIAMI	MIAMI, FLORIDA	2:30 P.M.	L, 36-33 OT
SEPT. 26	SOUTHERN MISS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	W, 36-28
OCT. 3	@ILLINOIS	CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS	2:30 P.M.	L, 14-13
OCT. 10	WISCONSIN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	L, 23-21
OCT. 17	@MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA	2:30 P.M.	W, 48-25
OCT. 24	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	L, 30-28
OCT. 31	@PURDUE	WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA	11 A.M.	L, 55-45
NOV. 7	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6 P.M.	ESPN
NOV. 14	@RUTGERS	PISCATAWAY, N.J.	TBA	TBA
NOV. 27	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA

ALL GAMES ARE CST



ON THE COVER

With the Nebraska football team suffering its sixth loss of the 2015 season earlier than any team ever in the 126-year history of the program, Husker fans are eager to see what Andrew White III and the rest of the men's basketball team can accomplish this season for Coach Tim Miles. Read about White this week and then look for the men's and women's basketball preview next issue as both teams open regular-season play on Nov. 14.

PHOTO BY MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Nebraska making a run at Omaha South's Noah Fant

Nebraska is working to get back into the picture with Iowa commit and Omaha South recruit Noah Fant. The three-star athlete said he's been hearing consistently from the Huskers this fall and even stopped by for an unofficial visit for the Wisconsin game.

Fant said the Huskers have come to him now and are talking about the tight end position.

"They are really pushing currently and want to keep me in state," he said. "They're really trying to build a relationship there. At first Nebraska really wanted me at defensive end because that's what they really needed but now they're talking about letting me make my own decision there."

The senior finished with a strong final campaign for Omaha South, as Fant had 570 yards on 46 receptions. He also scored 10 touchdowns. Fant said he sees tight end as a strong spot for him at the next level.

"I do think with the way the South offense was I got to really work on a lot of blocking and going out for passes," he said. "I think I'd fit really well as a tight end."

Even though Fant is committed to Iowa, a rival of the Huskers, he said he's not taking any enjoyment out of the team's struggles this season with the new coaching staff. Instead, Fant said



Omaha South's Noah Fant, center, is an Iowa commit, but Nebraska coaches haven't given up on him.

he's enjoyed the interactions he's had with Nebraska's coaches.

"A lot of people are complaining about the coaches and everything, but I've gotten to know the coaches and they know what they're talking about," Fant said. "I just think that it's a first year struggle that a lot of new coaching staffs will go through. I think that they'll definitely start to get better as things go on."

Nothing has changed in terms of Fant's commitment. He said he's still solid to Iowa but he's continuing to hear from Arizona State, Cal, Nebraska, Notre Dame and UCLA. Each school is recruiting him a little bit differently - either as a tight

end or a defensive end - and Fant said he hasn't decided what he'd most prefer to play at the next level.

The recruit said he's starting to narrow down some visit options.

"A lot of schools are still recruiting me pretty hard," he said. "More schools are coming in that are really interested in me. There's a lot of schools that are still recruiting even though I'm committed. They want to see how I am, where I am and they're also talking football."

"I think I'll be taking visits pretty soon," he said. "I've got some things planned out and all of that. I'll definitely go to Iowa, UCLA and I'm not sure about Nebraska because it's

so close. I'll probably take an unofficial and treat it more like an official. Other than that I might go to either Arizona State or Cal."

The visit to Nebraska a couple weeks ago went well for Fant.

"It was one of those things where I hadn't been back over to Nebraska since the red-white game," he said. "They wanted to get me back and show me how everything is going."

Fant's season with Omaha South ended and now basketball has begun. The recruit said unlike in year's past, he's going to continue lifting during basketball season to try to keep his weight up. Fant said he last weighed in at 217. **N**

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

Players, coaches struggling with outcomes



Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz

How many more times can a football team go to the mat and still pick itself back up?

That's the question we've been asking after each of these six losses in the 2015 season. How do you respond when you lose on a Hail Mary? How do you bounce back after a ferocious comeback and an overtime loss? How do you keep going after narrow losses to Illinois, Wisconsin and Northwestern?

On Saturday afternoon, the rain that had held off following a dark and dreary day here, started pouring from the sky as Nebraska's players were asked how Nebraska's players would respond after a lackluster effort against an over-matched Purdue team that leaves Nebraska's chances of being home in December looking more and more like a reality?

Junior linebacker Josh Banderas, the son of a former Husker and a Husker fan since berth, understands that this is not how Nebraska football is supposed to look – a season looking as gray as the West Lafayette skies raining on him on the way to the Nebraska buses.

"It's tough," Banderas said. "It's tough for everybody. When I was a fan, this would be tough. We're not giving up, so I guess I ask fans not to give up either. There's always an upside. The sun is going to come up. It's just when is it going to come up? We're not giving up, we're going to go into next week and try just as hard as we did this week, and last week and we're going to keep moving."

In a season full of narrow losses, Saturday's loss to Purdue looked stark for the way that Nebraska lost to the Boilermakers, who came into the game 1-5 on the season and 1-18 in Big Ten play the past three seasons. Saturday's win over the Huskers was the first home conference win for the Boilermakers in their last 10 tries.

Nebraska again looked like a team that

struggled out of the locker room. The Huskers couldn't run the ball against a team that came in ranked No. 98 in the country, and last in the Big Ten against the run. The Huskers turned the ball over four times, making things easy on Purdue's offense and quarterback David Blough, who threw for four touchdowns and ran for another on the afternoon.

After the game, head coach Mike Riley said his message to his team hasn't changed, and won't going forward. Riley's even-keeled personality might be right for a team that has ridden the rollercoaster this year from the opening game.

"We're going to keep coaching them," Riley said. "That's what we need to do. You'd be naive to not know this is not a good thing. We have to keep going with them. That's what they need the most

right now — more coaching."

In a season that has been quietly been followed by questions of talent, player buy-in and other issues, Nebraska will once again head back to the drawing board.

There are three games left to be played, with two Top-10 teams in Michigan State and Iowa waiting.

As the season continues to be historical for the wrong reasons, Nebraska's leaders said the right thing after the most recent loss – stay the course, keep working, things will turn around.

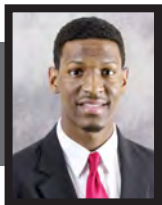
"Obviously we have a lot of problems to fix. We're focused on progress and trying to fix our issues," senior captain Jack Gangwish said. "My message usually is that guys are doing well and working hard...at this point our outlook is the same as it is every week. We have to continue to show up, get better and perfect our craft. All we can do is all we can do."

Banderas was one of Nebraska's final players to speak to media members after Saturday's game as the rain picked up – keeping a positive attitude, trying once more to get back up off the canvas.

"It's going to come up," Banderas said. "Eventually it's going to go our way."

"We're going to keep coaching them. That's what we need to do. You'd be naive to not know this is not a good thing. We have to keep going with them. That's what they need the most right now – more coaching."

**Mike Riley
NU Head Coach**



Q&A – Andrew White

Junior Guard • 6-foot-7, 216 pounds • Richmond, Va.

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Mitch Otto, Mug Shot Courtesy of NU Media Relations

Q: What did you take away from the trip to Spain?

A: “I was really impressed by our ability to rebound given our size. By playing teams like that who are experienced, who run a lot of false motion, I think it really tested our ability to guard. We didn’t do a great job of it, but it was good for our guys to guard men and crazy actions.”

Q: Why were your shooting percentages down in Spain?

A: “No excuses. When you have a ball and a hoop, you have to jump up and make shots. Coach mentioned us walking around a lot. We were doing just as much touring and experimenting as we were playing. It was just as much of a trip as it was a basketball tournament.”

Q: Do you have any prior experience with a trip like that?

A: “That was my second time taking a trip like that. Your legs are a little heavy. You are a little tired by the time you get to those afternoon games, but there’s going to be games in the Big Ten where you are a little tired from practice on game day or whatever the case may be, but you have to make plays.”

Q: What does it take to set up good 3-point shots?

A: “The coaches have done a good job emphasizing getting two feet in the paint. It seems like all of great shooting teams have great facilitators, guys that play with pace, so that’s what coach Phil (Beckner) has been getting on us a lot about.”

Q: How have the point guards done with that?

A: “I think Glynn does a great job at it. He’s really good at probing, he’s really good at splitting ball screens and traps, getting in the lane and getting guys the ball on time and on target. I think that kind of thing will help guys get in rhythm shots.”

Q: What have you thought of Watson overall as a true freshman?

A: “He’s a gamer. I mean, he’s won a state championship and was a pretty highly recruited guy. I think he’s a really good player, but on thing when you are dealing with a freshman and the beast of the Big Ten is that you will find out when the lights come on.”

Q: How excited are you to get back on the court

A: “I’m really excited about it because it’s kind of a new scene. We’ve been doing individuals and lifting four days a week for a few months now. It’s good to kind of change the scene, and have more time as a team to just play basketball. Before you know it, it will be time to play games.”

Q: How do you look at the opportunity for you personally?

A: “It’s just such a big opportunity for myself and for the team. The coaches have made it pretty apparent that I have to play well to help this team win, so that’s just something that I’m looking forward to. I came here for that kind of opportunity.”

Q: How much pressure is on you to be the main point scorer?

A: “If I play well, and we don’t win, it’s still a failure. My main thing is trying to do whatever I have to do so that I can play well but to make the team win. That’s a big goal. Coming in and scoring points, putting up stats isn’t nearly as fun if you are not winning, so my main priority is to score, rebound, whatever so everybody can have a good time.”

Q: What’s your attitude when it comes to rebounding?

A: “I think if you have a big body, you are a 6-foot-7 wing, and you don’t rebound, you’re selfish. I mean, that’s what my team needs. Since we are undersized, everybody has to clean up the boards. I remember being in Spain almost killing myself, just trying to be on the glass. Defensive rebounds are kind of the expectation, but any offensive rebound, that’s an incentive. That’s extra.”



2015-16 Men's Basketball Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Nov. 14	Miss Valley St	8:00 p.m.
Nov. 17	at Villanova	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 19	Delaware State	8:00 p.m.
Nov. 22	SE Louisiana	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 24	AR-Pine Bluff	8:00 p.m.
Nov. 27	Cincinnati	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 1	Miami (FL)	9:00 p.m.
Dec. 5	Abil Christian	2:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Creighton	8:00 p.m.
Dec. 13	Rhode Island	2:00 p.m.
Dec. 20	Samford	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 22	PV A&M	8:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	Northwestern	4:00 p.m.
Jan. 2	Indiana	4:00 p.m.
Jan. 5	at Iowa	9:00 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Rutgers	5:00 p.m.
Jan. 12	Minnesota	9:00 p.m.
Jan. 16	at Illinois	2:30 p.m.
Jan. 20	at Mich. State	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	Michigan	2:00 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Purdue	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	Maryland	8:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	Rutgers	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Wisconsin	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 13	Penn State	6:00 p.m.
Feb. 17	at Indiana	8:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	Ohio State	TBD
Feb. 25	at Penn State	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 1	Purdue	8:00 p.m.
Mar. 6	at Northwestern	2:00 p.m.

Purdue 55, Nebraska 45



Nebraska quarterback Ryker Fyfe scrambles against the Boilermakers in his first career start for the Huskers.

Train-Wrecked in West Lafayette

Huskers suffer worst loss of Mike Riley era

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photos by Jake Crandall

Add another clunker to the Nebraska football ledger.

Saturday's 55-45 loss to Purdue stands right up near the top of the chart when it comes to worst losses in recent memory, and it's not like that chart is devoid of options.

Afterwards, embattled first-year coach Mike Riley tried to explain the way his team came out flat again, this time against a 1-6 Purdue team looking for its first home conference win under coach Darrell Hazell and third ever against a FBS school.

"It was really a game about giving them too many opportunities," Riley said. "They did a nice job, and I thought their quarterback made some plays. I thought early on letting him run for that big play was hard, and then we had turnovers in the red zone, giving them real good opportunities to score. We made it easy for them."

The five turnovers are a great place to start. Backup quarterback Ryker Fyfe, making his first career start in place of the injured Tommy Armstrong, threw four interceptions and failed to fall on an errant snap.

The Boilermakers capitalized for 28 points off those turnovers, and that number may have been larger had the first half clock not run out on them after Fyfe's second interception.

"It is a game of taking care of the football and taking advantage of your own field position and doing what you can do and not giving them those kind of easy opportunities," Riley said.

Despite the turnovers, Nebraska managed to move the ball offensively early in the game and late as well, attempting a comeback. It was in the second quarter, when field position forced Nebraska into a corner, that Purdue seized the advantage.

"We ran into a hard spot offensively there in the second quarter

and didn't do much," Riley said. "I thought we gave them some momentum because of that."

Boilermaker freshman quarterback David Blough was the catalyst. He didn't come into the game with great numbers, but he found an opening and ran for a 56-yard touchdown to put Purdue ahead 7-3 in the first quarter and never looked back. On the day, Blough was 28-of-43 passing for 274 yards and four touchdowns. He tossed in another 82 yards and a score on the ground.

"I thought he made some plays that were very nice, kind of savvy plays," Riley said of the opposing quarterback. "I thought he just managed and played the game very well, and the big play in the game was right when we were maybe getting back in it, and they hit the bootleg long pass for a touchdown. I thought that was a killer, and he made a real nice throw on that."

As for Fyfe in his first start as a Husker, it wasn't all bad. The four interceptions were mixed in with some success through the air. Fyfe ended up throwing a lot in the second half and wracked up 407 yards through the air and four touchdowns.

"His performance was like our team, probably a mixed bag," Riley said. "I thought he really made some throws and some plays.

We went through that rough spot that really set us back, but for the most part, I was really proud of him. I think that, in the end, it will make us stronger down the road his getting to play."

It was a tough one to stomach for anyone in red Saturday, but these kind of gut punches are becoming familiar.

As are comments like that of defensive end Jack Gangwish after the game.

"Obviously, we have a lot of problems to fix," he said. "We are focused on progress right now, trying to fix our issues."



Imani Cross carries the ball against Purdue



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Nebraska running back Terrell Newby had success running against Purdue, but got hurt and didn't play in the second half.

NU tallies season-low run total vs. Purdue

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JAKE CRANDALL

For a second-consecutive week, Nebraska established a new season low for rushing yards in a 55-45 loss at Purdue.

During a 30-28 home setback to Northwestern on Oct. 24, the Cornhuskers rushed 38 times for 82 yards. Against the Boilermakers, Nebraska kept it on the ground 29 times for just 77 yards.

"I'm telling you, we do want to run," Nebraska coach Mike Riley said, responding to media questions about his team's commitment to the ground game. "We need to do better and we will."

With starting quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. sidelined by turf-toe injury and backup Ryker Fyfe making his first career start, speculation was that the Huskers might lean on their running

game on the road at Ross-Ade Stadium. Supporting that notion was a Boilermakers' defense that ranked dead last in the Big Ten Conference and 98th nationally in rushing defense, allowing 198.1 yards per game.

But as was the case following the Northwestern loss, Nebraska offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf was left fielding questions about the Huskers' inability to establish a consistent running game. NU averaged just 2.7 yards per attempt and had difficulty executing blocking assignments up front, he said.

"We got beat at times and we just kind of took turns doing it," Langsdorf said. "We'd have a hedge play that we might lose on and then we might have a run that got beat by an inside guy – just kind of (losing) one-on-one matchups more than anything."

Langsdorf said he was satisfied with Nebraska's ratio of 19 running plays and 18 pass attempts even though NU trailed 21-9 at halftime. However, with the Boilermakers forging a 42-16 lead late in the third quarter, the Huskers abandoned their ground attack and finished with 10 rushing attempts for 22 yards in the second half.

"We got behind and had to throw a ton," Langsdorf said. "That's not really the game we want to be in, but we were trying to come from behind and had to throw the ball."

Wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp said the score dictated Nebraska's play-calling in the second half.

"Going in, we wanted to keep it as balanced as possible," Westerkamp said. "But we were kind of taking what they were giving us."



Nebraska coach Mike Riley is comforted by Purdue coach Darrell Hazell after the Huskers fell to 3-6 on the season.

Riley doesn't fault effort, urges players not to quit

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JAKE CRANDALL

For Nebraska fans frustrated by the team's disappointing 3-6 record this season, Cornhuskers' head coach Mike Riley wants them to know that he feels their pain.

That said, Riley said he hopes the negativity surrounding the program's worst mark through nine games since 1960 won't affect his team's performance in its final three games of the regular season.

In the face of mounting criticism, Riley continued to take a positive approach following Nebraska's 55-45 loss at Purdue.

And, he said he has regular conversations with athletics director Shawn Eichorst about the direction of the program.

"We're just going to keep coaching them – that's what we need to do," said Riley, whose squad has dropped four of its last five games. "You'd be naïve not to know that this is not a good thing, so we've just got to keep going with them."

Despite a discouraging season, Riley said he believes the Huskers continue to play hard.

"I can't sit here and fault the effort," Riley said.

This latest setback took a different path than the five others as Nebraska committed five turnovers. After losing five games by a combined 13 points, the Cornhuskers trailed the Boilermakers 42-16 with 2:34 remaining in the third before rallying with 29 fourth-quarter points.

Wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp said Riley's postgame message for the team

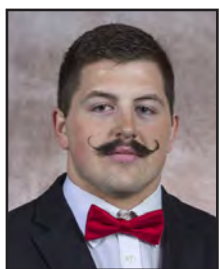
was to stay the course.

"He just said to stay up, be positive, be smart and we've got to continue to move forward and build," Westerkamp said. "We'll watch this film and get better. It was great to hear that from him."

Westerkamp said he and his teammates are disappointed with the team's record, but won't quit.

Nebraska needs wins in its final three games against Michigan State, Rutgers and Iowa to become bowl-eligible, although a loophole exists that could possibly produced a 5-7 postseason qualifier.

"It's not what we expected. It's not what we wanted, but – I keep saying it week in and week out – this team has got a lot of fight," Westerkamp said of Nebraska's 2015 season. "We have a lot of guys who are not going to give up."



10 questions

with Ross Dzuris

Story by Lanny Holstein • Action Photo by Jake Crandall, Head Shot Courtesy of NU Media Relations

Q: How much have you personally enjoyed playing an increased role as the season's gone along?

A: "It's been fun. I think I've been able to take advantage of these guy's injuries. I think I've done a good job of getting better each week and increasing my role."

Q: What's the biggest positive that you've brought to the defense?

A: "I think I've come to work every day. I can break down an offense pretty well, communicate out there pretty well. Those first couple days of practice I can get everybody together and get the plays to roll together well, get our d-line together."

Q: How perfectly did things line up for you on the sack/safety you had against Northwestern?

A: "We had an adjustment for when they went to empty, and the line stunt worked perfectly. I came across the center and (the quarterback) was still back there when I got there."

Q: Is that not the ultimate play, a sack and a safety, for a defensive lineman?

A: "Yeah. I mean, the only thing better would be a touchdown, so it was pretty cool. You don't really even think of that being a play that you will get a chance to do very often, but not very many teams go empty on the 2-yard line."

Q: It looked like you ber hugged him before bringing him down?"

A: "With as much space as (the quarterback) had and that big run he had, the only concern I had was making sure he didn't throw the ball away or get away, and I knew somebody else would be there pretty soon."

Q: Jack Gangwish was your help. Did you give

him any crap about taking half of your sack?

A: "I just told him on the sideline, 'You know, I just did that because I was so unselfish, and I wanted to help you out a little bit.'"

Q: How tough is it to play within the rules of the defense and not just go get the quarterback?

A: "It's frustrating, but we have to know that. You can't be over aggressive, especially at the d-end by getting washed above the quarterback or getting underneath too soon because that can just cut off our entire defense."

Q: What's the mood like among the defense during those fourth quarters that haven't gone your way?

A: "Obviously I can't speak for everybody, but from a d-line standpoint, we are pretty confident every drive no matter what point it is in the game. We are going to stop them. You kind of have to have that attitude. If you don't, you are going to let the game slip away."

Q: Is it hard to go back and watch those late failures on film?

A: "Yeah. Looking back on the film, there's always little plays, little things that you could have done better, maybe come back on a play a little better and make a tackle that would have gone for 10 yards instead of 60 yards."

Q: What's the root of those failures?

A: "I think it's the whole game. There are a lot of things that we haven't been finishing out on. Letting big plays happen to us on defense, converting third downs on offense, those things just catch up with you. It's not necessarily not finishing in the fourth quarter. It's everything catching up with you."



Purdue 55, Nebraska 45

Oct. 31, 2015 at Ross-Ade Stadium in West Lafayette, Ind.

Attendance: 31,351

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Total
Nebraska	3	6	7	29	45
Purdue	7	14	21	13	55

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	07:53	NEB - Brown, Drew 41 yd field goal, 12-70 5:34	3 - 0
	05:06	PUR - Blough, David 56 yd run (Griggs, Paul kick), 6-77 2:47	3 - 7
2nd	13:48	PUR - Anthrop, Danny 3 yd pass from Blough, David (Griggs, Paul kick), 5-16 1:35	3 - 14
	11:52	NEB - Morgan Jr., S. 20 yd pass from Fyfe, Ryker (Brown, Drew kick blockd), 5-58 1:56	9 - 14
	04:12	PUR - Young 4 yd run (Griggs, Paul kick), 5-22 2:00	9 - 21
3rd	12:04	NEB - Cross, Imani 9 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 8-75 2:56	16 - 21
	07:42	PUR - Jurasevich 5 yd pass from Blough, David (Griggs, Paul kick), 13-80 4:22	16 - 28
	05:19	PUR - Yancey, De. 83 yd pass from Blough, David (Griggs, Paul kick), 2-84 0:59	16 - 35
	02:34	PUR - Yancey, De. 9 yd pass from Blough, David (Griggs, Paul kick), 5-19 2:36	16 - 42
4th	14:56	NEB - Hovey, Lane 17 yd pass from Fyfe, Ryker (Brown, Drew kick), 8-70 2:38	23 - 42
	11:39	NEB - Janovich, Andy 1 yd run (Westerkamp, J. pass from Fyfe, Ryker), 5-71 1:20	31 - 42
	05:51	PUR - Jones, Markell 6 yd run (Griggs, Paul kick), 1-6 0:05	31 - 49
	03:27	NEB - Reilly, Brandon 8 yd pass from Fyfe, Ryker (Brown, Drew kick), 7-64 2:24	38 - 49
	01:02	PUR - Jones, Markell 8 yd run (Griggs, Paul kick blockd), 7-45 2:25	38 - 55
	00:30	NEB - Westerkamp, J. 35 yd pass from Fyfe, Ryker (Brown, Drew kick), 3-58 0:32	45 - 55



JAKE CRANDALL/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Imani Cross gives thanks after scoring a touchdown for the Huskers in the third quarter to make it 21-16.



De'Mornay Pierson-El tries to make a catch in the first quarter against Purdue. He later was injured celebrating Stanley Morgan's touchdown.



Terrell Newby finished with 56 rushing yards on 10 carries before getting injured in the first half.

Team Statistics

	NEB	PUR
FIRST DOWNS	28	20
Rushing	3	8
Passing	22	10
Penalty	3	2
NET YARDS RUSHING	77	183
Rushing Attempts	29	37
Average Per Rush	2.7	4.9
Rushing Touchdowns	2	4
Yards Gained Rushing	135	187
Yards Lost Rushing	58	4
NET YARDS PASSING	407	274
Completions-Attempts-Int	29-48-4	28-43-0
Average Per Attempt	8.5	6.4
Average Per Completion	14.0	9.8
Passing Touchdowns	4	4
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	484	457
Total offense plays	77	80
Average Gain Per Play	6.3	5.7
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	7-40	6-58
PUNTS-YARDS	3-144	5-208
Average Yards Per Punt	48.0	41.6
Net Yards Per Punt	48.0	41.6
Inside 20	2	3
50+ Yards	1	1
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	1	3
KICKOFFS-YARDS	6-373	9-518
Average Yards Per Kickoff	62.2	57.6
Net Yards Per Kickoff	39.5	36.7
Touchbacks	2	1
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Average Per Return	0.0	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	8-163-0	4-86-0
Average Per Return	20.4	21.5
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	4-46-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	1-27-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	29:26	30:34
1st Quarter	10:17	4:43
2nd Quarter	7:01	7:59
3rd Quarter	7:03	7:57
4th Quarter	5:05	9:55
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 12	8 of 17
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	2 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	6-6	6-6
Touchdowns	5-6	6-6
Field goals	1-6	0-6
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-1	2-18
PAT Kicks	4-5	7-8
Field Goals	1-1	0-0
Points off turnovers	0	28



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Individual Statistics

Nebraska

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Newby, Terrell	10	58	2	56	0	22	5.6
Cross, Imani	8	40	1	39	1	9	4.9
Reilly, Brandon	1	20	0	20	0	20	20.0
Janovich, Andy	2	2	0	2	1	1	1.0
Pierson-El, D.	1	0	5	-5	0	0	-5.0
Fyfe, Ryker	7	15	50	-35	0	7	-5.0
Totals	29	135	58	77	2	22	2.7

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Fyfe, Ryker	29-48-4	407	4	52	2
Totals	29-48-4	407	4	52	2

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Westerkamp, J.	9	123	1	35
Reilly, Brandon	5	88	1	52
Carter, Cethan	3	45	0	23
Ozigbo, Devine	3	42	0	30
Morgan Jr., S.	3	26	1	20
Hovey, Lane	2	33	1	17
Turner, Jamal	1	17	0	17
Newby, Terrell	1	13	0	13
Pierson-El, D.	1	12	0	12
Cross, Imani	1	8	0	8
Totals	29	407	4	52

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Foltz, Sam	3	144	48.0	59	2	0
Totals	3	144	48.0	59	2	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Reilly, Brandon	0	0	0	2	48	30	0	0	0
Morgan Jr., S.	0	0	0	3	81	42	0	0	0
Newby, Terrell	0	0	0	1	12	12	0	0	0
Nelson, Jordan	0	0	0	1	13	13	0	0	0
Janovich, Andy	0	0	0	1	9	9	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0	8	163	42	0	0	0

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Brown, Drew	1st	07:53	41 yards	Good

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Brown, Drew	6	373	62.2	2	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Reilly, Brandon	20	88	48	0	0	156
Westerkamp, J.	0	123	0	0	0	123
Morgan Jr., S.	0	26	81	0	0	107
Newby, Terrell	56	13	12	0	0	81

Purdue

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Jones, Markell	23	93	1	92	2	21	4.0
Blough, David	10	83	1	82	1	56	8.2
Phillips	1	5	0	5	0	5	5.0
Young	1	4	0	4	1	4	4.0
Monteroso, Dan	1	2	0	2	0	2	2.0
Anthrop, Danny	1	0	2	-2	0	0	-2.0
Totals	37	187	4	183	4	56	4.9

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Blough, David	28-43-0	274	4	83	1
Totals	28-43-0	274	4	83	1

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Anthrop, Danny	10	40	1	8
Yancey, De.	5	111	2	83
Jones, Markell	5	51	0	18
Posey, Cameron	3	16	0	12
Herdman, Cole	2	23	0	13
Jurasevich	2	5	1	5
Phillips	1	8	0	8
Burgess	0	20	0	0
Totals	28	274	4	83

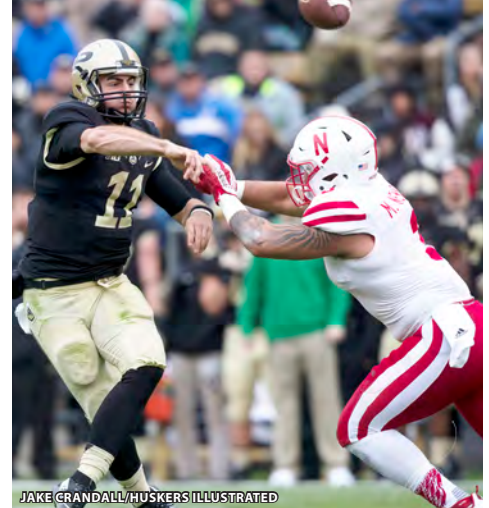
Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Schopper, Joe	5	208	41.6	52	3	0
Totals	5	208	41.6	52	3	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Brown, Anthony	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	4
Williams, F.	0	0	0	1	28	28	1	42	42
Anthrop, Danny	0	0	0	3	58	23	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0	4	86	28	4	46	42

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
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Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Griggs, Paul	9	518	57.6	1	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Jones, Markell	92	51	0	0	0	143
Yancey, De.	0	111	0	0	0	111
Anthrop, Danny	-2	40	58	0	0	96
Blough, David	82	0	0	0	0	82



Above: Marcus Newby pressures Purdue quarterback David Blough. Left: Dedrick Young makes a tackle as Daniel Davie looks on.

Defensive Statistics

#	Nebraska	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
52	Banderas, Josh	6	3	9	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Gerry, Nate	4	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Williams, Aaron	5	2	7	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Newby, Marcus	4	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Young, Dedrick	4	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
88	Dzuris, Ross	4	1	5	1.0-1	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Davie, Daniel	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1B	Kalu, Joshua	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
7	Collins, Maliek	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
91	Akinmoladun, F.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95	Gangwish, Jack	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
71	Lewis, Alex	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1C	Joseph, Boaz	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	Maurice, Kevin	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2A	Williams, Kier.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Reed, Antonio	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8A	Jones, Chris	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Fyfe, Ryker	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Ozigbo, Devine	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
90	McMullen, Greg	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals		44	22	66	1.0-1	3-3	0	0-0	0-0	2	1	0

#	Purdue	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
3	Clark, Leroy	8	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
42	Garcia, Andy	8	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
54	Replogle, Jake	5	2	7	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Hudson, Garrett	5	2	7	0.5-3	2-7	-	1-27	-	-	-	-
7	Gregory, Robert	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Brown, Anthony	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	3-4	1	-	-
13	Robinson, Golen	2	1	3	0.5-3	2-8	-	-	-	-	-	-
85	Jurasevich	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95	Panfil, Evan	2	1	3	1.0-12	2-12	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Posey, Cameron	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Miles, Antoine	1	1	2	-	2-6	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Yancey, David	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Roberts	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	Ezechukwu	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
80	Burgess	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Howard, Ra'Zahn	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
24	Williams, F.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	1-42	2	-	-
92	Watson, Ryan	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals		46	16	62	2.0-18	9-34	0	1-27	4-46	5	1	0

RUSHING OFFENSE: Nebraska ran better against Purdue than it did against Northwestern. The Husker backs were able to get outside a little bit more on a few stretch plays and Imani Cross found some success in the second half with the inside run. However, Nebraska wasn't in a situation to run the ball much and when it did early they'd often take one step forward and then two steps back. Overall the numbers look worse than they actually are thanks to some sacks and an errant snap which cost Nebraska field position and set up a Purdue score. The best one can say for Nebraska's running game is it didn't directly lead to a turnover.. – *Michael Schaefer*

D

PASSING OFFENSE: The good: 407 yards, four touchdowns, 10 different players with receptions. The bad: four interceptions, three of which led to touchdowns. The Huskers completed a higher percentage of passes, didn't have many drops and got more receivers involved, but overall there was too much damage from the passing attack to see much of a positive. – *Michael Schaefer*

D+

RUSHING DEFENSE: Purdue came into the game as the country's No. 103 rushing offense, but didn't look like it against Nebraska's group. The Boilermakers ran for 183 yards as a team and averaged 4.9 yards per carry against the Huskers. The most egregious errors came in containing the quarterback run game. Northwestern provided the blueprint of where Nebraska could be beaten with the quarterback run game, as David Blough got the Boilermakers on the scoreboard with a 56-yard touchdown run, before finishing with 82 yards rushing. – *Michael Bruntz*

D

PASSING DEFENSE: Blough had been completing just better than half his passes coming into Saturday's game, and he finished the game 28-for-43 for 274 yards and four touchdowns. More importantly, he didn't throw an interception and was only sacked once. The Huskers failed to get off the field on third down, as the Boilermakers finished 8-of-17 in third down conversions and cashed in on several short fields because of Nebraska turnovers. Once again, when Nebraska needed to get off the field, Blough made enough plays to win. – *Michael Bruntz*

D

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: Once again, the kicking portion of the game was fairly solid, with Drew Brown kicking a 41-yard field goal — though he did miss an extra point — and Sam Foltz downing two punts inside the Purdue 20-yard line. The kicking coverage was again average, as Purdue averaged 21.5 yards per return. Nebraska deviated from its approach earlier in the year, sending Terrell Newby and Stanley Morgan out to return kickoffs. Morgan looked the most comfortable, returning one kickoff 42 yards — by far Nebraska's best return of the season. – *Michael Bruntz*

D+

Game Notes &

TRICKY LONG SNAPPER

Nebraska's extra point blocking team seemed to be fooled Saturday, jumping offside twice on the try following Purdue's first score. Coach Mike Riley said his players offered him an explanation when they got to the sideline.

"Our players said the center was calling a cadence, which they can, and then moving the ball," the coach said. "That was the description of it. It was more than one guy that said it down the line. Something was going on because we haven't really done that before."

The first Nebraska penalty was also an offside call on a special teams play. Long snapper Jesse Schmitt got Nebraska to jump on the first punt of the game as well.

MORE INJURIES

Nebraska came into Saturday's game with a mouthful of injuries and left with a few more. Wide receiver De'Mornay Pierson-El and running back Terrell Newby each left the game in the first half with injuries and did not return.

Coach Mike Riley didn't offer much in the way of information on either situation.

"De'Mornay (Pierson-El) has a knee, and we will know more about that tomorrow," the coach said. "Terrell (Newby) has an ankle, and we will know more about that tomorrow too."

Pierson-El missed the first four games of the season with a Jones Fracture in his foot, and injury he suffered midway through fall camp. The explosive sophomore was making strides towards regaining his abilities and position in the offense before going down.

Newby received the lions share of the carries in each game except for Illinois this season. He was replaced by a combination of Imani Cross and Devine Ozigbo against Purdue.

GANGWISH THANKS FANS

Immediately following the 55-45 loss to Purdue, Nebraska native Jack Gangwish jumped into the stands at Ross-Ade Stadium to thank Husker fans for making the trip to West Lafayette. He shook hands, spoke with a few fans and posed for pictures.

The senior said he felt it necessary to do so.

"As a captain of this team and a member of Nebraska football, it's my responsibility to show our fans that we appreciate what they do," he said. "Some people made a long trip to come out there. We do have some fans out here too, and I just wanted to say thanks."

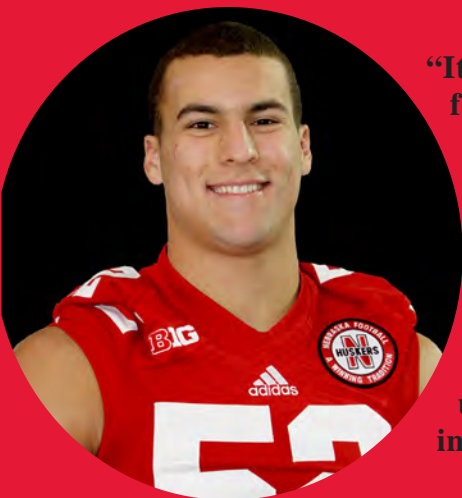
The gesture was taken kindly by many fans back home on social media. A video of Gangwish in the stands made the rounds, and commenters generally praised Gangwish for his leadership.

ARMSTRONG LEFT AT HOME

Injured quarterback Tommy Armstrong did not make the trip to West Lafayette with the team Saturday.

Quoting NU linebacker Josh Banderas on the 2015 season:

"It's tough. I know it's tough for everybody. When I was a fan, this would just be tough. But, you know, we're not giving up. So I guess I would just ask the fans to not give up either. There's always an upside. The sun's going to come up. It's just, 'When's it going to come up?'"





JAKE CRANDALL/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Nebraska standout returner De'Mornay Pierson-El is carted off the field after injuring his knee in the second quarter.

Instead, he stayed back in Lincoln, rehabbing his injured foot. Coach Mike Riley said he would have brought Armstrong on the trip had doing so not counted against the active travel roster.

"With the way the rules are you don't just get extra people to travel," the coach said. "You can only travel with 70 with that injury not taken into account as an extra. What we try to do is take 70 guys that can play in the game."

Nebraska traveled with three quarterbacks: the starter, Ryker Fyfe, along with backups A.J. Bush and Zack Darlington.

ODDS AND ENDS

The nine-yard TD run by Imani Cross in the third quarter was the 24th of his career and second of the 2015 season.

The 17-yard touchdown reception by Lane Hovey in the fourth quarter was the first touchdown reception of Hovey's career.

The 52-yard reception by Brandon Reilly in the fourth quarter was a career-long reception, bettering his 49-yard reception against Southern Miss earlier this season. Reilly finished the game with five receptions for 88 yards, includ-

ing an 8-yard touchdown grab in the fourth quarter.

The 83-yard touchdown pass by Purdue in the third quarter was the longest play allowed by Nebraska this season. The previous long was a 68-yard run by Northwestern's Clayton Thorson last week.

The Purdue victory evened the all-time series between the schools at two wins apiece.

Purdue's 55 points were the most by an NU opponent this season, bettering the 36 by Miami in an overtime loss.

Purdue 55, Nebraska 45



Clockwise from above: Brandon Reilly watches the ball go off his hands, bounce off three different Purdue players before being picked off in the fourth quarter. Andy Janovich follows the block of Chongo Kondolo to score a fourth quarter touchdown. Offensive lineman Alex Lewis makes a diving stop to prevent a fumble return from being returned for a touchdown. Devine Ozigbo snags a screen pass from quarterback Ryker Fyfe, who threw for 407 yards in his first career start, but also had four interceptions. Jordan Westerkamp fights to get away from Purdue tacklers. Westerkamp finished with a season-high 123 receiving yards on nine catches to move into the top five all-time for career yardage at Nebraska.

PHOTOS BY
JAKE CRANDALL







JAKE CRANDALL / HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Senior wide receiver Jamal Turner makes a 17-yard catch and run against Purdue as offensive linemen Ryne Reeves (65) and Z...

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In Memory

Husker cheerleaders pay tribute to teammate

PHOTOS BY JAKE CRANDALL/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED AND COURTESY PHOTO FROM NU SPIRIT SQUAD



Above: The Nebraska spirit squad honored teammate Brianna Anson at the Purdue game by wearing pink ribbons over their hearts. Anson, a junior, was found dead on Oct. 28 after falling from a downtown parking garage in an apparent suicide. Right: Spirit squad members released pink and red balloons in an empty Memorial Stadium on Oct. 28 as they grieved for Anson. The University released the following statement:

“The University of Nebraska Athletics family is deeply saddened with the passing of Brianna Anson, a valued member of our Spirit Squad and student at UNL. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, loved ones and fellow Spirit Squad members and staff. The UNL community hurts today to know we have lost one of our own. It is our sincere hope at this difficult time that everyone will take care of and support one another.”





Nebraska fans react to one of the many plays that went against the Huskers on Saturday in West Lafayette, Indiana.

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THIRD DOWN FRUSTRATIONS

Huskers actually better at converting longer distances than mid-range

JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Stories by Lanny Holstein and Darren Ivy

First year offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf has a lot on his plate, but that's nothing new. In fact, the same could be said of any offensive coordinator, but the set of circumstances Nebraska's play caller is working under are a little different than most.

Langsdorf is working with an offensive unit that is better on third down, also known as the "money down", when the distance to go is longer rather than shorter.

"I think our overall percentage is okay," Langsdorf said of his team's 41 percent conversion rate (56th in the country) on third down. "What I haven't liked is third and medium. It should be a better down and distance situation to convert on, and percentage-wise, we've been a little better in that 7-10 (yard) range than from 3-6. I haven't liked that at all."

Most of the time, it's been a passing down when Nebraska is faced with a third and three or more yards this season, and quarterback Tommy Armstrong just isn't as good on those short throws as Langsdorf would like. Other factors have come into play as well.

"We've had numerous drops and all kind of problems in that intermediate game where we've had first downs ready for us and open and haven't been able to hit them," the coordinator said.

With all the intermediate passing struggles, many fans have wondered aloud, "Why don't they just run on third and four?"

Langsdorf said it's not that simple. He loves the running game on third and one, but at third and four it's getting tougher to manage.

"You say, 'It's just three yards,' but it's a lot more than that," the coordinator said. "I think the biggest thing is how many defenders you are playing against. When you say, 'Why don't you just hand it off?' well, you are handing it off against 8-9 guys, and it's not going to be easy. You have an unblocked defender, and you are getting dictated to a little bit."

Langsdorf is stuck between a rock and a hard place on those medium distances. He doesn't feel confidently in the run, and Armstrong is actually a better thrower down the field than he is in close.

Through eight games, the quarterback was a measly 39 percent passer averaging 5.6 yards per pass on third and short to medium but a tremendous 62 percent passer averaging 10 yards per pass on third and long.

Those numbers don't make any conventional sense, but when you consider Armstrong isn't a conventional quarterback they begin to come into focus. Nebraska's offensive leader is better when he has to be creative, break the pocket and make something happen downfield.

"He's always been a dual threat quarterback who can run with his legs, so having that aspect to his game allows to him to run out of the pocket and be comfortable," wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp said. "Some guys get out of the pocket, freak out and they don't know what to do, but for Tommy it's almost natural to throw the ball on the run."

The Nebraska receiving corps, led by Westerkamp, seem to thrive in those playground-esque moments as well.

"That stuff happens when you are in a big third down situation, you have to use your scramble rules, get open, convert it, keep a drive alive," the receiver said. "It's pretty big."

This is the life of offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf.

Conventional wisdom be damned.

HI'S TOP 5

CAREER RECEIVING YARDS IN NEBRASKA SCHOOL HISTORY



Jordan Westerkamp makes one of his nine catches against Purdue.

- 1 KENNY BELL**
2,689 YARDS
- 2 JOHNNY RODGERS**
2,479 YARDS
- 3 NATE SWIFT**
2,476 YARDS
- 4 TERRENCE NUNN**
1,762 YARDS
- 5 JORDAN WESTERKAMP**
1,688 YARDS

With his nine receptions for a season-high 123 yards, including a 35-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter against Purdue, Jordan Westerkamp moved into fifth place on the NU career receiving yardage list. He passed Todd Peterson (1,602 yards).

Losing Late

When you have five losses by a combined 13 points, there are going to be some things here or there that would have made a difference. Finishing out football games is something that's driving Huskers fans, coaches and players crazy.

"I think that when you talk about the fourth quarter and finishing, I think you have to throw all of us into the barrel," coach Mike Riley said. "They all have their own story so it's hard to generalize necessarily about what that might be."

Pathetic pass defense is definitely one key element to Nebraska's continued fourth quarter collapses. When opposing offenses abandon the run and opt for strictly and aerial assault, the comeback is usually on. The coach, in his attempt at an explanation, kept the focus on what could have been done offensively.

"The definite part is that there are isolated cases where one more first down offensively and we don't get into a Hail Mary," Riley said. "You can go all the way back to that. Just taking better care of the football and the time management in Illinois. There are isolated things as we go that you could pinpoint game to game and that's what happens in close games that are down to the wire. Those things are glaring, so we all take part in that failure."

Poor Returns

Coming into Purdue, Nebraska was 124th in the nation in kickoff returns, averaging just 15.8 yards per return. Freshman running back Jordan Stevenson's redshirt was burned against Wisconsin in order to add a spark to the anemic unit, and things just got worse.

Stevenson was tackled at the 9-yard line on one return against Northwestern after bringing the ball out from the four.

"We have to continue to work on the blocking," coach Mike Riley said. "One of the hardest things to do in football is block in space, and we're obviously not doing a great job of that. We're not getting the things started."

Riley added that the team has worked extensively at that in practice, taking note of the poor showing on Saturdays, but the results haven't shown up. Would a different scheme help those numbers, perhaps?

"We just have to continue to look at the best scheme for the week," Riley said. "You have your base returns, the things you'd like to do to secure, basically just like the offensive play, the point of attack and then make it better. We just have to do a better job of blocking in space and getting the thing started."

As for Stevenson's role in all of this, the coach is unfazed by the freshman's poor showing thus far.

"I'm actually excited to see Jordan Stevenson get a little room," he said. "I know this is no consolation as an answer, so I don't mean it to

be, but often times it's a block on the kickoff return. It's hard to watch because you can see it taking shape. If one guy loses, it's a nothing play. If you just stay on that block a little bit, it's just like everything in football, the line between success and failure is pretty tight."

"Getting the right ball in opportunity too because it's just like punts. There are some good returnable kicks and some that are not so good."

Big Red Pressure Cooker

Scrutiny is nothing new to Mike Riley. The longtime football coach says he's seen it everywhere he's been, even if there is a faction of Husker fans who don't think there was much of it on him at Oregon State.

"I'm not surprised by those kinds of things," Riley said. "Frankly, it's everywhere in our world, if you're at any college, if you're with an NFL team. I'm not really surprised nor affected by any of that."

A 3-5 start to Riley's Nebraska career has him quickly in a hole with the more skeptical or fickle of fans, but the coach isn't taking any cues from his predecessor in firing back at the backers.

"It's like I've said before, you want to be at a place where people care and they're interested and of course, with that, is scrutiny about everything and when you're not winning don't be surprised by the reaction," Riley said. "You just kind of stick with what you know has to be done with your team."

What has to be done is winning.

"The biggest issue I deal with is the football team, and how they feel and the fact that I've been impressed with their work during the week and that gives us a chance," Riley said. "The hard part is how do you react after so many losses."

Bowl Game Meaningful to Senior

You could see the pain on defensive end Jack Gangwish's face when he was asked at about the possibility of missing a bowl game this past week. His team sitting at 3-5 at that point, needing three

wins in four games to guarantee a berth, the home state senior laid it on the line.

"As a senior, I want to go, I want to prolong my season," he said. "I want to keep playing ball and take us to a good bowl and hopefully do well there... Nebraska's got a great tradition of going to bowl games, going to pretty good bowls for the most part."

It's personal for Gangwish, who takes Nebraska football more seriously than anyone else on the team, but it's also about the next generation of Huskers and the future of the program.

"The other thing is that postseason time, that bowl prep, that period of time that you get to practice and work, that's something that can really contribute to the success of a football program, having that much more time to perfect your craft and get better," he said. "Any edge you can get is pretty big. I'm not sure how many practices you get in an average bowl prep, but you think about spring ball, that's huge in the development of a football t"



KEN JUSZYK/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

De'Mornay Pierson-El has not been used on kickoff returns this season despite his big plays as a punt returner.

Hometown Huskers

Mick Stoltenberg embodies Nebraska-born spirit, desire

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Jimmy Rash

IF YOU'RE ONE of those sentimental, old school Husker fans who wants to hear stories about tough-willed local kids making it work for the Huskers, keep a handkerchief nearby.

I'm about to tell you the story of Mick Stoltenberg, a redshirt freshman from Gretna who is already seeing the field.

Stoltenberg is about as Nebraska as it gets. The burly 285-pound defensive tackle grew up watching the Huskers on Saturdays and thinking about them on the days in between. The state's team wasn't just something he took for granted. It was something he held onto year round.

When former coach Bo Pelini invited him to a summer football camp in between his junior and senior years of high school that essentially amounted to a scholarship tryout, Stoltenberg came up with a superhuman effort.

"I really didn't know how hard I was working until the next day when I was so sore from everything, but while I was going through it there was so much adrenaline going I really didn't even know," Stoltenberg said. "That was one of the best experiences I've ever had, just going in and working so hard and earning what I wanted to earn."

Stoltenberg earned the scholarship, driving the other campers off the ball as an offensive lineman, shedding blocks as a defender and even catching passes as a tight end. Holding offers from a handful of smaller Division I and Division II schools, Nebraska was all that mattered to the Gretna product, and he showed up that day.

Playing at NU wasn't always a reality for Stoltenberg though. The 6-foot-5 defensive lineman said he entered high school at that same height but only weighing 200 pounds. By the time he graduated Stoltenberg was up to 265, transforming his body to fit the game he loved.

"I played other sports

(growing up), but nothing really compared to football with the physicality and everything," Stoltenberg said. "I just liked it a lot more than everything else. I mean, other sports are fun and all too, but at the competitive level, football was always my favorite."

No doubt, some of that favoritism came from watching his Big Red on Saturdays, and now that he's a part of the team he couldn't be happier.

"Any time I can get on the field, it's obviously a great opportunity," he said. "I love Nebraska football, so the fact that I'm getting to actually contribute is a really cool experience for me."

There's a heavy contingent keeping tabs on Stoltenberg's every move as a Husker. It's an easy drive from Gretna to Lincoln, so the redshirt freshman knows there are eyes on him every Saturday.

"I like the fact that I'm from around here because you grew up worshipping this team, and now you are a part of it," he said. "Everyone knows you around here, so I actually like it. I don't know if it's added pressure, but I welcome it."

A flurry of injuries to defensive tackle opened the door for Stoltenberg this season. Although Malik Collins hasn't missed a game, Vincent Valentine, Kevin Williams and Kevin Maurice have each missed significant snaps, allowing Stoltenberg a chance to be the change up guy in the middle of the line. He said he usually gets a minimum of 3-4 snaps a game, sometimes more.

"I don't really have any expectations," Stoltenberg said. "I don't really know how much I'm going to rotate in before the game, so I just prepare as much as I can and when those guys need a break I just have to be ready to go in."

There's a lot left in store for Stoltenberg, according to his position coach Hank Hughes, but getting started early is never bad thing.

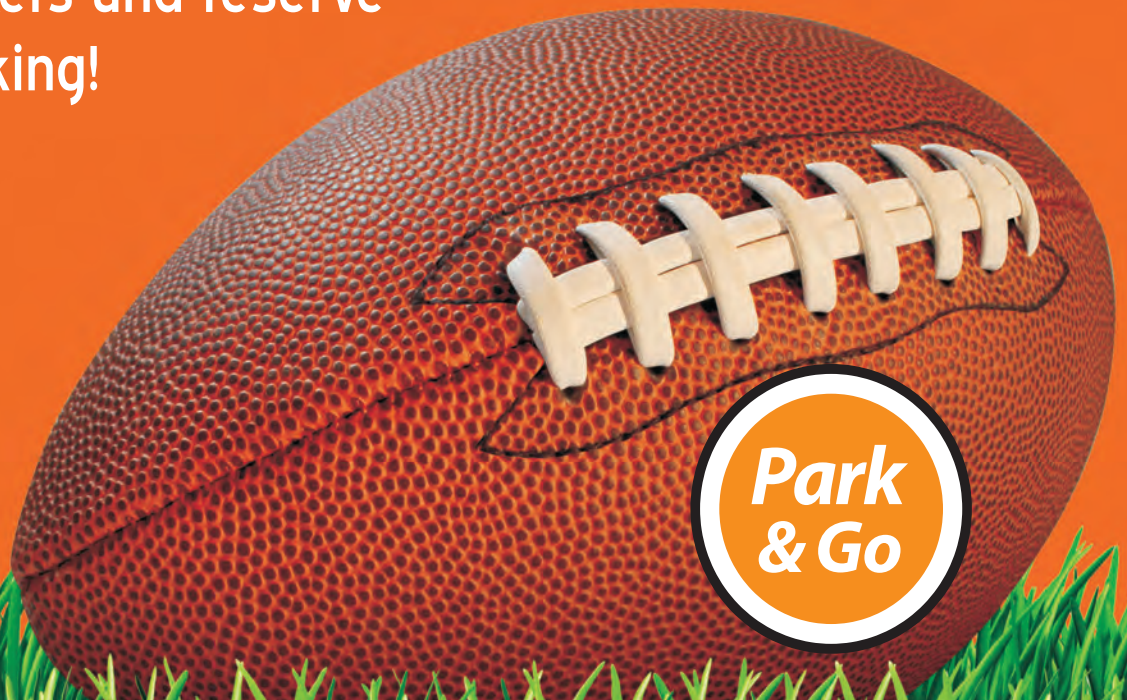
"It's been a cool experience, for sure," he said.



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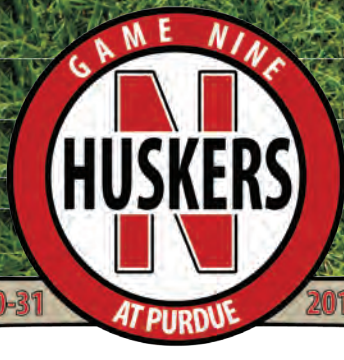
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2015 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL ROSTER

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)	No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)
1	Westerkamp, Jordan	WR	6-0	195	Jr.	Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic)	42	Foster, Trey	TE	6-0	245	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
2	Darlington, Zack	QB	6-2	205	RFr.	Apopka, Fla. (Apopka)	42	Koley, Creighton	DB	6-0	180	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic)
2	Mosley, Trai	CB	5-10	170	RFr.	Pflugerville, Texas (Hendrickson)	43	Classen, Brett	WR	6-2	205	So.	Medina, Minn. (Winona State) (Wayzata)
2	Stevenson, Jordan	IB	5-9	205	Fr.	Dallas, Texas (South Oak Cliff)	43	Ferguson, Tyrin	LB	6-2	200	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (Edna Karr)
3	Alston, Lavan	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	Oxnard, Calif. (St. Bonaventure)	44	McCann, Mitch	FB	6-0	235	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)
3	Newby, Marcus	LB	6-1	235	So.	North Potomac, Md. (Quince Orchard)	44	Stoltenberg, Mick	DL	6-5	265	RFr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
4	Anderson, Avery	DB	6-0	175	Fr.	Surprise, Ariz. (Pine Creek (Colorado Springs))	45	Natter, A.J.	DE	6-5	250	So.	Milton, Wis. (Milton)
4	Armstrong Jr., Tommy	QB	6-1	220	Jr.	Cibola, Texas (Steele)	45	Reimers, Bryan	WR	6-5	210	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln East)
5	Young, Dedrick	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Peoria, Ariz. (Centennial)	47	Jarzynka, Matt	DE	6-4	240	RFr.	Loup City, Neb. (Loup City)
6	Bush, AJ	QB	6-3	220	RFr.	Alpharetta, Ga. (Norcross)	48	Evans, Erik	DE	6-3	255	So.	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
6	Lee Jr., Eric	DB	6-0	180	Fr.	Milton, Mass. (Valor Christian (Colorado))	48	Rahn, Gabe	WR	6-1	190	So.	Le Mars, Iowa (Le Mars)
7	Allen, Taariq	WR	6-3	200	Sr.	Weston, Mass. (The Rivers School)	49	Hemphill, Austin	FB	6-0	220	Fr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
7	Collins, Maliek	DT	6-2	300	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Center)	49	Weber, Chris	LB	6-3	220	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)
8	Jones, Chris	DB	6-0	180	So.	Jacksonville, Fla. (Sandalwood)	50	Johns, Garrett	DL	6-0	280	Jr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
8	Morgan Jr., Stanley	WR	6-0	185	Fr.	New Orleans, La. (St. Augustine)	51	Brugmann, Jared	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)
9	Broekemeier, Tyson	QB	6-1	200	Sr.	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)	51	Freudenburg, Ryan	OL	6-5	305	RFr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Lutheran-Northeast)
9	Neal, DaiShon	DE	6-7	250	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (Central)	52	Banderas, Josh	LB	6-2	235	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
10	Kalu, Joshua	CB	6-1	185	So.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)	53	Boryca, Alex	LB	6-2	220	RFr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)
10	Turner, Jamal	WR	6-1	190	Sr.	Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)	54	Painter, Robby	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Centennial, Colo. (Grandview)
11	Carter, Cethan	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	New Orleans, La. (Archbishop Rummel)	54	Poppen, Garrett	LB	6-1	215	RFr.	Giltner, Neb. (Giltner)
11	Joseph, Boaz	DB	6-1	190	So.	Weston, Fla. (Cyprus Bay)	55	Maurice, Kevin	DT	6-3	280	Jr.	Orlando, Fla. (Freedom)
12	Gifford, Luke	LB	6-3	215	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)	55	Thurston, Paul	OL	6-5	295	Jr.	Arvada, Colo. (Arvada West)
13	Hovey, Lane	WR	6-4	205	Jr.	Adel, Iowa (Adel-Desoto-Minburn)	56	Gaylord, Christian	OL	6-6	275	Fr.	Baldwin City, Kan. (Baldwin City)
13	Talan, Adrienne	LB	6-1	200	Fr.	Davie, Fla. (Flanagan)	56	Simpson, Brad	LB	6-0	225	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Ralston)
14	Rose, Jonathan	CB	6-1	195	Sr.	Leeds, Ala. (Auburn) (Leeds)	57	Sterup, Zach	OL	6-8	320	Sr.	Hastings, Neb. (Hastings St. Cecilia)
15	Pierson-El, De'Mornay	WR	5-9	185	So.	Alexandria, Va. (West Potomac)	57	Weinmaster, Jacob	LB	6-0	200	Fr.	Loveland, Colo. (Loveland)
15	Rose-Ivey, Michael	LB	5-11	240	Jr.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)	58	Lopez, Joel	DL	6-2	260	So.	Saint Charles, Ill. (Burlington Central)
16	Reed, Antonio	DB	6-2	200	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. (Southaven (Miss.))	58	Whitaker, Corey	OL	6-4	290	Jr.	Murrieta, Calif. (Vista Murrieta)
17	Fyfe, Ryker	QB	6-2	210	Jr.	Grand Island, Neb. (Grand Island)	59	Cleveland, Brody	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Ogallala, Neb. (Ogallala)
17	King, Sedrick	DE	6-4	240	RFr.	Plant City, Fla. (Plant City)	59	Finnin, Matt	OL	6-7	305	Sr.	Crete, Ill. (College of DuPage) (Crete Monee)
18	Barry, Mohamed	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	Grayson, Ga. (Grayson)	62	Conrad, Cole	OL	6-5	290	RFr.	Fremont, Neb. (Archbishop Bergan)
19	Keels, Joe	DE	6-3	265	Sr.	Kenosha, Wis. (Highland CC) (Bradford)	63	Farmer, Tanner	OL	6-4	310	RFr.	Highland, Ill. (Highland)
21	Jackson, Charles	DB	5-11	180	Jr.	Spring, Texas (Klein Collins)	65	Reeves, Ryne	OL	6-3	300	Sr.	Crete, Neb. (Crete)
21	Wilbon, Mikale	IB	5-8	190	RFr.	Chicago, Ill. (De La Salle Institute)	66	Utter, Dylan	OL	6-1	285	Jr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)
22	Ozigbo, Devine	RB	5-11	225	Fr.	Sachse, Texas (Sachse)	67	Foster, Jerald	OL	6-3	310	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
22	Ridder, Anthony	DB	6-2	205	Sr.	West Point, Neb. (West Point Central Catholic)	68	Gates, Nick	OL	6-5	290	RFr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)
23	Davie, Daniel	CB	6-1	190	Sr.	Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice)	70	Kondolo, Chongo	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Carrollton, Texas (Fresno City College) (Creekview)
23	Rose, Austin	IB	6-1	215	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb. (North Star)	71	Lewis, Alex	OL	6-6	290	Sr.	Tempe, Ariz. (Colorado) (Mountain Pointe)
24	Williams, Aaron	S	5-11	185	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. (Carver)	72	Hannon, Zach	OL	6-5	305	So.	Kansas City, Mo. (Rockhurst)
25	Gerry, Nate	S	6-2	205	Jr.	Sioux Falls, S.D. (Washington)	73	Hahn, Sam	OL	6-6	300	Jr.	DeWitt, Neb. (North Dakota St.) (Tri-County)
25	Holtmeier, Blake	WR	6-2	200	RFr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	74	Barnett, Jalin	OL	6-4	310	Fr.	Lawton, Okla. (Lawton)
26	Connely, Thomas	LB	5-11	205	RFr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney Catholic)	75	Anderson, Fyn	DL	6-3	260	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
26	Pelzer, Brady	WR	5-11	180	RFr.	Bellevue, Neb. (Bellevue East)	75	Long, Chris	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Blair, Neb. (Blair)
26	Stutcliffe, Jamie	PK	6-2	190	Jr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Utah/Pierce College) (Thousand Oaks)	76	Johnson Jr., Dwayne	OL	6-6	280	So.	Houston, Texas (Bellaire)
27	Foltz, Sam	P	6-1	200	Jr.	Greely, Neb. (Grand Island)	76	Owen, Dylan	DL	6-5	235	RFr.	Westchester, N.Y. (Bridgton Academy) (Somers)
27	Johnson, Noah	RB	6-0	195	Fr.	Sutton, Neb. (Sutton)	77	Knevel, David	OL	6-9	310	So.	Brantford, Ontario, Canada (Pauline Johnson Collegiate)
27	Williams, Kieron	S	6-0	190	So.	Shreveport, La. (Air Force Prep) (C.E. Byrd)	78	Price, Givens	DT	6-4	310	Sr.	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
28	Cockrell, Byerson	S	6-0	185	Sr.	Columbus, Miss. (East Mississippi CC) (Columbus)	79	Decker, Michael	OL	6-4	285	Fr.	Omaha, Neb. (North)
28	Taylor, Adam	IB	6-2	210	So.	Katy, Texas (Katy)	82	Moore, Alonzo	WR	6-2	195	Jr.	Winnfield, La. (Winnfield Senior)
29	Graham, Nolan	DB	5-11	200	RFr.	Firth, Neb. (Norris)	84	Cotton, Sam	TE	6-4	250	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
29	Nabity, Graham	IB	6-0	210	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Elkhorn)	85	Snyder, Matt	TE	6-5	245	Fr.	San Ramon, Calif. (California)
30	Kitrell, Bo	FB	6-1	225	RFr.	Ashland, Neb. (Ashland-Greenwood)	86	Sutton, David	TE	6-3	255	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
31	Young, Conor	WR	6-1	170	Fr.	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)	87	Reilly, Brandon	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)
32	Cross, Imani	IB	6-1	240	Sr.	Gainesville, Ga. (North Hall)	88	Dzuris, Ross	DE	6-3	250	Jr.	Plattsmouth, Neb. (Plattsmouth)
32	Davis, Alex	DE	6-5	230	Fr.	Riviera Beach, Fla. (Dwyer)	88	Hoppes, Tyler	TE	6-4	240	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Wayne State) (Southwest)
33	Bailey, Christian	WR	5-11	205	So.	San Clemente, Calif. (San Clemente)	89	Ketter, Connor	TE	6-5	245	So.	Norfolk, Neb. (Norfolk Catholic)
33	McKay, Garrett	LB	6-0	210	Jr.	Anaheim Hills, Calif. (Santa Ana College) (Servite)	90	McMullen, Greg	DE	6-3	280	Jr.	Akron, Ohio (Hoban)
34	Brown, Drew	PK	5-11	180	So.	Southlake, Texas (Southlake Carroll)	91	Akinmoladun, Freedom	DE	6-4	255	RFr.	Grandview, Mo. (Grandview)
34	Newby, Terrell	IB	5-10	200	Jr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (Chaminade)	92	Urbach, Chase	LS	6-3	200	Fr.	Grosse Pointe, Mich. (Grosse Pointe South)
35	Janovich, Andy	FB	6-1	230	Sr.	Gretna, Neb. (Gretna)	92	Williams, Kevin	DT	6-2	275	Sr.	Holland, Ohio (Springfield)
36	Karel, Reid	ATH	6-3	190	Fr.	Seward, Neb. (Seward)	94	Davis, Khalil	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
37	Lazaro, Noah	LB	6-2	225	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southwest)	95	Gangwish, Jack	DE	6-2	265	Sr.	Wood River, Neb. (Wood River)
37	Mazour, Wyatt	RB	5-9	190	Fr.	Albion, Neb. (Boone Central)	95	Lindsay, Spencer	PK	5-9	205	Jr.	Kearney, Neb. (Kearney)
38	Jordan, Harrison	FB	5-10	230	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)	96	Davis, Carlos	DL	6-2	265	Fr.	Blue Springs, Mo. (Blue Springs)
39	Nelson, Jordan	IB	5-7	180	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)	97	Rath, Logan	DT	6-4	280	Jr.	Giltner, Neb. (South Dakota State) (Giltner)
40	Betka, Ty	WR	5-7	165	Jr.	Superior, Neb. (Drake)	98	Valentine, Vincent	DT	6-3	320	Jr.	Edwardsville, Ill. (Edwardsville)
40	Ober, Jordan	LS	6-1	200	Fr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman)	99	Newell, Peyton	DL	6-3	270	RFr.	Hiawatha, Kan. (Hiawatha)
41	McNitt, Luke	TE	6-2	240	So.	Kearney, Neb. (Nebraska-Kearney) (Kearney)							



2015 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	@ W. Michigan	W, 37-24
Sept. 12	Oregon	W, 31-28
Sept. 19	Air Force	W, 35-21
Sept. 26	Central Michigan	W, 30-10
Oct. 3	@ Rutgers	W, 31-24
Oct. 10	Minnesota	W, 41-13
Oct. 17	@ Michigan	W, 27-23
Oct. 24	Indiana	W, 52-26
Nov. 7	Nebraska	
Nov. 14	Maryland	
Nov. 21	@ Ohio State	
Nov. 28	Penn State	

2014 RESULTS (11-2, 7-1)

Jacksonville State	W, 45-7
@ Oregon	L, 46-27
Eastern Michigan	W, 73-14
Wyoming	W, 56-14
Nebraska	W, 27-22
@ Purdue	W, 45-31
@ Indiana	W, 56-17
Michigan	W, 35-11
Ohio State	L, 49-37
@ Maryland	W, 37-15
Rutgers	W, 45-3
@ Penn State	W, 34-10
Baylor*	W, 42-21

*Cotton Bowl

HEAD COACH

Mark Dantonio has settled in as the head coach at East Lansing. After a going 22-17 in his first three seasons, he has made the Spartans a



perennial Top-25 team going 61-14 in the last six, including 8-0 this year. Dantonio came to Michigan State from Cincinnati where he only went 18-17 as the head coach, but had that Big Ten connection that made him a good fit at MSU. He was the defensive coordinator at Ohio State from 2001-2003 and the defensive back coach at Michigan State from 1995-2000. The 59-year old Dantonio is also a former player, having lettered as a defensive back for South Carolina from 1976-78.



NU's offense will need to account for Michigan State defensive end Shilique Calhoun.

Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photos by Michigan State Athletics

Bye Week Helps Spartans Prepare for Huskers

Michigan State is undefeated and ranked in the top 10. Even though they had some close calls against inferior opponents such as Purdue and Rutgers, they still did enough to win.

With a dramatic win at in-state rival Michigan and outscoring Indiana the last two weeks, the Spartans are happy to get to a bye week to rest and prepare for their trip to Lincoln to take on the Huskers.

"It couldn't have come at a better time," MSU offensive lineman Jack Conklin said of the bye. "We are beat up, but we're getting healthy. Hopefully, we'll have everybody back for the Nebraska game. With the depth we've created along the offensive line because of the injuries, we're going to have that nine-to-10 man rotation back that we've had in the past years."

NU could have also benefited from a bye week, but unfortunately they have no time for rest to get some of their key players healthy.

Prediction

Expect Michigan State to be fresh and focused which will be hard for the Huskers to match. The only advantage for NU is they are playing at home but that hasn't been big a factor this season.

Michigan State 44, Nebraska 20

A look back - Huskers start national title defense with a 55-14 drubbing of MSU Nebraska 55, Michigan State 14

Sept. 7, 1996 in Lincoln, Nebraska

Two-time defending national champion and No. 1 Nebraska shellacked Michigan State 55-14 in its season-opener and started its quest for a third-straight national title.

With quarterback Scott Frost making his first start at quarterback, the Husker offense wasn't in sync yet, so it was the defense and special teams that sparked the NU scoring onslaught.

The Blackshirts scored two touchdowns and Mike Fullman returned a punt for a score. Frost ran for 58 yards with a touchdown but was only 5 of 11 passing for 74 yards and a TD. Nebraska finished with 298 yards of offense which was their lowest output since the seventh game of the 1994 season.

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Michigan State wide receiver Aaron Burbridge carries the ball as quarterback Connor Cook (18) follows behind.

“When I was coming out of the tunnel I was just thinking about trying to stay calm. It would be real easy to let your emotions get a hold of you and come out and be a little tight or tense or a little too excited, but I just stayed calm so I could go out and make the right decisions,” Frost said. “We did what we had to do as an offense to win the game.”

Regardless of the way the 1996 version of Nebraska played in its first game, MSU head coach Nick Saban left Lincoln wanting to emulate the Husker football program.

“When you’re trying to build a program, it’s good to play someone who epitomizes the standard of excellence like Nebraska,” Saban said. “That can show players, especially the younger players, that this is what it’s all about.”

Offensive Preview

Quarterback Connor Cook is not only one of the best quarterbacks in the Big Ten but in the nation. As a starter, Cook is 31-3, including being 20-1 against Big Ten opponents. His stats this season are some of the best - 258.8 passing yards per game, 17 touchdown passes and two interceptions.

Cook often targets receiver Aaron Burbridge

in the passing game. The 6-foot-1, 208 pound Burbridge brings a physical presence and averages close to 104 yards receiving per game and has 52 catches this season.

MSU is one of the best in the Big Ten in third-down conversions (50%), turnover margin (+1.25), penalty yards per game (39), scoring (33.4) and time-of-possession (32.58).

If there is one chink in the Spartan armor, it would be their rushing attack. They are ranked near the bottom of the conference with 155 yards per game. MSU looks for improvement in that area if running back Madre London returns after missing the last two games with an injury. He averages 66 yards per game.

Defensive Preview

Michigan State’s defense isn’t as formidable as it has been in prior seasons, but it is still pretty good.

The ring leader for the Spartans is senior Shilique Calhoun. The All-American defensive end has eight sacks this season. He is joined by junior linebacker Riley Bullough who leads the team in tackles (67) and is second on the team in sacks.

Statistically, they are ranked in the 30s nationally in total and scoring defense but have a

top 20 defense against the run.

Teams have had success passing on MSU, who give up over 240 yards per game. Their last opponent, Indiana, threw for over 300 yards and had 13.4 yards per completion.

Last game

Michigan State 52, Indiana 26

Played Oct. 24 at East Lansing, Michigan

Quarterback Connor Cook, who said after the game that he felt like he was in a zone, set the Michigan State single-game record with 416 yards of total offense. He also set career highs for pass completions (30), pass attempts (52), passing yards (398), and touchdowns (4).

After Indiana got within two points at 28-26, the Spartans opened up the game in the fourth quarter as they scored 24 unanswered points and converted 3-of-4 third-down conversions.

“Very exciting football game,” said MSU head coach Mark Dantonio.

“It was a little closer than the final score would indicate. We just sort of took control of the game in the fourth quarter, defensively and offensively.”

Fast Facts

Location: East Lansing, Michigan

Enrollment: 50,085

First Year of Football: 1896

National Titles: 6

Big Ten Titles: 8

Stadium Name: Spartan Stadium

Stadium Capacity: 75,005

Nickname: Spartans

Colors: Green & White

Mascot: Sparty

2014 Overall Record: 11-2

2014 Big Ten Record: 7-1

Conference: Big Ten

Starters Returning: (17) – Offense (7), Defense (7), Specialists (3)

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MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

2015 FOOTBALL ROSTER



No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)	No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown (Prev School)
2	Darian Hicks	CB	5-10	180	JR	Solon, Ohio - Solon	38	Byron Bullough	LB	6-1	228	RS FR	Traverse City, Mich. - St. Francis
3	LJ Scott	RB	6-0	233	FR	Hubbard, Ohio - Hubbard	39	Jermaine Edmondson	CB	6-0	182	JR	Canton, Ohio - McKinley Senior
4	Michael Geiger	K	5-8	186	JR	Toledo, Ohio - Ottawa Hills	40	Collin Lucas	FB	6-0	242	FR	Avon Lake, Ohio - Avon Lake
4	Malik McDowell	DL	6-6	275	SO	Detroit, Mich. - Southfield	41	Gerald Owens	DL	6-2	270	RS FR	Thorofare, N.J. - West Deptford
5	Andrew Dowell	LB	6-0	216	FR	North Ridgeville, Ohio - St. Edward	42	Zac Leimbach	S	5-11	195	JR	Walled Lake, Mich. - Walled Lake Central
5	DeAnthony Arnett	WR	5-11	184	SR	Saginaw, Mich. - Tennessee	43	Ed Davis	LB	6-3	230	SR	Detroit, Mich. - Southeastern
6	Damion Terry	QB	6-3	235	SO	Erie, Pa. - Cathedral Prep	44	Grayson Miller	S	6-3	200	FR	Georgetown, Ky. - Scott
6	Kaleel Gaines	CB	6-0	170	FR	Frostproof, Fla. - Frostproof	45	Darien Harris	LB	6-0	220	SR	Silver Spring, Md. - DeMatha Catholic
7	Demetrious Cox	DB	6-1	200	JR	Jeannette, Pa. - Jeannette	47	David Fennell	FB	6-2	266	JR	Portland, Ore. - Sunset
7	Tyler O'Connor	QB	6-3	222	JR	Lima, Ohio - Lima Central Catholic	48	Kenny Willekes	LB	6-3	223	FR	Rockford, Mich. - NorthPointe Christian
8	Lawrence Thomas	DL	6-4	305	SR	Detroit, Mich. - Renaissance	49	Shane Jones	LB	6-1	234	SO	Cincinnati, Ohio - Archbishop Moeller
9	Montae Nicholson	S	6-2	220	SO	Monroeville, Pa. - Gateway	50	Sean Harrington	LB	6-3	210	SO	Commerce Township, Mich. - Orchard Lake St. Mary's
10	Matt Morrissey	S	6-2	203	RS FR	Lincolnshire, Ill. - Adlai E. Stevenson	51	Kyonta Stallworth	OT	6-3	275	FR	Detroit, Mich. - Martin Luther King
11	Jamal Lyles	TE	6-3	263	JR	Southfield, Mich. - Southfield-Lathrup	51	Dillon Alexander	DE	6-3	238	RS FR	Forsyth, Ga. - Lambert
11	Colar Kuhns	QB	6-1	212	RS FR	Gaithersburg, Md. - Damascus	52	Taybor Pepper	SN	6-5	230	SR	Saline, Mich. - Saline
12	R.J. Shelton	WR	5-11	195	JR	Beaver Dam, Wis. - Beaver Dam	55	Miguel Machado	OL	6-6	298	JR	Miami, Fla. - Pasadena City College
13	Robert Aiello	WR	6-2	188	SO	Lake Orion, Mich. - Lake Orion	56	Enoch Smith Jr.	DL	6-2	285	RS FR	Chicago, Ill. - Mount Carmel
13	Vayante Copeland	CB	6-0	195	RS FR	Dayton, Ohio - Thurgood Marshall	57	Collin Cafilisch	OL	6-4	291	FR	Canton, Mich. - Canton
14	Brian Lewerke	QB	6-3	192	FR	Phoenix, Ariz. - Pinnacle	58	Devyn Salmon	C	6-1	325	SO	Plant City, Fla. - Plant City
14	Chris Laneaux	S	5-11	208	SR	Kalamazoo, Mich. - Portage Northern	59	David Beedle	OT	6-5	316	RS FR	Clarkston, Mich. - Clarkston
15	Brandon Sowards	WR	6-0	198	RS FR	Wyandotte, Mich. - Roosevelt	60	Casey Schreiner	OL	6-3	320	RS FR	Bethel Park, Pa. - Bethel Park
15	Tyson Smith	CB	5-10	170	FR	Southfield, Mich. - Orchard Lake St. Mary's	61	Cole Chewins	OT	6-7	245	FR	Clarkston, Mich. - Clarkston
16	Aaron Burbridge	WR	6-1	208	SR	Farmington Hills, Mich. - Harrison	63	Noah Listermann	OT	6-7	286	FR	Cincinnati, Ohio - Winton Woods
16	Tommy Vento	QB	6-1	192	SR	Farmington Hills, Mich. - Harrison	64	Brandon Clemons	OG	6-3	302	SR	Milford, Pa. - Delaware Valley
17	Trey Kilgore	WR	6-1	186	SO	Cincinnati, Ohio - St. Xavier	65	Brian Allen	OL	6-2	298	SO	Hinsdale, Ill. - Hinsdale Central
17	Tyriq Thompson	LB	6-1	230	FR	Detroit, Mich. - Martin Luther King	66	Jack Allen	C	6-2	296	SR	Hinsdale, Ill. - Hinsdale Central
18	Michael Topolinski	LB	6-0	198	SR	Richmond Hill, Ontario - New Mexico Military Institute	67	Bryce Wilker	OL	6-4	265	FR	Belding, Mich. - Belding Area
18	Connor Cook	QB	6-4	220	SR	Hinckley, Ohio - Walsh Jesuit	68	Jeremy Schram	OL	6-4	315	RS FR	White Lake, Mich. - Orchard Lake St. Mary's
19	AJ Troup	WR	6-2	218	SR	Minneapolis, Minn. - Wayzata	70	Tyler Higby	OL	6-4	305	FR	Houston, Texas - The Kinkaid School
19	Josh Butler	CB	5-11	170	FR	Mesquite, Texas - West Mesquite	71	Chase Gianacakos	OL	6-6	296	RS FR	St. Charles, Ill. - St. Charles North
20	Jalen Watts-Jackson	DB	5-11	192	RS FR	Dearborn, Mich. - Orchard Lake St. Mary's	72	Craig Evans	DT	6-2	318	RS FR	Sun Prairie, Wis. - Sun Prairie
21	Davis Lewandowski	WR	6-0	190	FR	Okemos, Mich. - Okemos	73	Dennis Finley	OL	6-6	305	SO	Detroit, Mich. - Cass Tech
22	Paul Andrie	WR	6-2	197	JR	Valparaiso, Ind. - Valparaiso	74	Jack Conklin	OT	6-6	325	JR	Plainwell, Mich. - Plainwell
22	Delton Williams	RB	6-1	228	JR	Erie, Pa. - Cathedral Prep	75	Benny McGowan	OG	6-3	325	JR	Centerville, Ohio - Centerville
23	Chris Frey	LB	6-2	235	SO	Upper Arlington, Ohio - Upper Arlington	76	Donovan Clark	OL	6-4	325	SR	Cincinnati, Ohio - Finneytown
24	Brett Scanlon	K	5-11	216	JR	Dowagiac, Mich. - Western Michigan	77	Nick Padla	OL	6-6	300	RS FR	Berrien Springs, Mich. - Berrien Springs
24	Gerald Holmes	RB	6-0	216	SO	Flint, Mich. - Carman-Ainsworth	79	Kodi Kieler	OL	6-6	315	JR	Rockwood, Mich. - Carlson
25	Jake Hartbarger	P	6-4	210	RS FR	Waterville, Ohio - Anthony Wayne	80	Dylan Chmura	TE	6-4	258	SO	Waukesha, Wis. - Waukesha West
25	Darrell Stewart Jr.	WR	6-1	198	FR	Houston, Texas - Nimitz	81	Matt Sokol	TE	6-5	250	RS FR	Rochester, Mich. - Adams
26	RJ Williamson	S	6-0	216	SR	Dayton, Ohio - Dunbar	82	Josiah Price	TE	6-4	252	JR	Greentown, Ind. - Eastern
26	Austin Wolfe	WR	6-0	176	SO	Springfield, Va. - Lake Braddock Secondary	83	Paul Lang	TE	6-5	260	SR	Pittsburgh, Pa. - Mount Lebanon
27	Khari Willis	S	5-11	202	FR	Jackson, Mich. - Lumen Christi	84	Felton Davis III	WR	6-4	181	FR	Richmond, Va. - Highland Springs
28	Madre London	RB	6-1	216	RS FR	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. - St. Thomas Aquinas	85	Evan Jones	DE	6-5	248	JR	West Lafayette, Ohio - Ridgewood
28	David Dowell	DB	6-0	186	FR	North Ridgeville, Ohio - St. Edward	85	Macgarrett Kings Jr.	WR	5-10	192	SR	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. - University School
29	Mark Meyers	S	6-0	186	JR	Toledo, Ohio - Whitmer	86	Matt Macksood	WR	5-11	195	JR	Lansing, Mich. - Lansing Catholic Central
30	Riley Bullough	LB	6-2	230	JR	Traverse City, Mich. - St. Francis	87	Edward Barksdale III	WR	6-2	199	JR	Solon, Ohio - Solon
31	T.J. Harrell	LB	6-1	209	RS FR	Tampa, Fla. - Tampa Catholic	88	Monty Madaris	WR	6-1	202	JR	Cincinnati, Ohio - Archbishop Moeller
32	Nick Tompkins	RB	5-9	178	JR	Snellville, Ga. - Brookwood	89	Shilique Calhoun	DE	6-5	250	SR	Middletown, N.J. - Middletown North
32	Cassius Peat	DL	6-3	258	FR	Chandler, Ariz. - Corona del Sol	91	Robert Bowers	DE	6-4	238	RS FR	Columbus, Ohio - Walnut Ridge
33	Jon Reschke	LB	6-2	228	SO	Sterling Heights, Mich. - Brother Rice	92	Joel Heath	DL	6-6	293	SR	Cincinnati, Ohio - Mount Healthy
33	Frank Epitropoulos	WR	6-2	202	JR	Upper Arlington, Ohio - Upper Arlington	93	Damon Knox	DL	6-5	276	SR	Muskegon, Mich. - Muskegon
34	Brock Makaric	WR	6-2	195	SO	Saginaw, Mich. - Heritage	94	Montez Sweat	DE	6-6	230	RS FR	Stone Mountain, Ga. - Stephenson
34	Drake Martinez	LB	6-2	210	SO	Laguna Beach, Calif. - Saddleback College	97	Justice Alexander	DE	6-5	232	FR	Macedonia, Ohio - Nordononia
35	Nick Krumm	DB	5-11	186	FR	Commerce Township, Mich. - Walled Lake Central	97	Nathan Conrad	TE	6-5	230	RS FR	Commerce Township, Mich. - Orchard Lake St. Mary's
35	Phillip-Michael Williams	RB	5-9	186	SR	Ballston Spa, N.Y. - Ballston Spa	98	Demetrius Cooper	DE	6-5	245	SO	Chicago, Ill. - Percy L. Julian
36	Sinclair Farinholt	WR	6-0	183	FR	Richmond, Va. - Fork Union Military Academy	99	Raequan Williams	DL	6-4	290	FR	Chicago, Ill. - DePaul College Prep
36	Arjen Colquhoun	CB	6-1	202	SR	Windsor, Ontario - W.F. Herman Secondary School	99	Kevin Cronin	K	6-1	225	JR	Traverse City, Mich. - Traverse City West Senior
37	Trevon Pendleton	FB	6-0	250	SR	Lucasville, Ohio - Portsmouth West							

BIGTEN NOTEBOOK

Off-the-Field Drama

Ohio State, Minnesota dominate Big Ten news in final week of October.

| DOUG GRIFFITHS

IN A RATHER light week of game action for the Big Ten, the headlines were made by off-the-field events much more than games on Halloween.

On Oct. 31 news broke about Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett being suspended for the Minnesota game after police cited him that day on suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while impaired.

Barrett, 20, was cited with the misdemeanor offense at a campus-area checkpoint. He failed a breathalyzer test and was released to teammate and fellow quarterback Cardale Jones, according to Eleven-warriors.com

Barrett, the reigning Big Ten Quarterback of the Year who went 11-1 as a freshman starter while setting 19 school and conference records, had been named the starter before the Buckeyes' win over Rutgers.

Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith told ESPN that Barrett will be eligible to return for the Nov. 14 game at Illinois.

A few days prior to Barrett getting arrested, a bombshell came out of Minneapolis when Golden Gopher head coach Jerry Kill resigned on Oct. 28 because of recurring health issues.

Since 2005, the 54-year-old Kill has suffered seizures due to epilepsy. He also had a battle with cancer.

On Oct. 27, Kill had two seizures and still went to practice.

"I don't want to be a liability," Kill said. "I don't want somebody to have to worry about if I'm going to drop on the field. ... My wife, two kids, brother and Mom need me more down the road.

"I hate losing and I feel like I'm losing today. It's an empty feeling.

"I have given every single ounce to the game and the state of Minnesota that I could," Kill added. "I'm a guy walking away from a whole lot of money. ... If I could give anybody advice: Count on your

health instead of your wealth and count on God instead of yourself."

Minnesota interim athletic director Beth Goetz called Kill "a man of unbelievable character."

"They don't come any more authentic than Jerry Kill. He truly cares about people. He has set a tremendous example of what it means to be passionate, to go after your dreams, to be fully committed in everything you do."

Minnesota defensive coordinator Tracy Claeks, a Kill assistant for 21 years, was named interim coach.

Kill's tenure as Gopher head coach ends with him having a 29-29 record with three bowl appearances.

"There is no question in my mind that the program is better," Kill said. "It's been a group of people who made it better, not just Jerry Kill.

"I don't have any more energy. None. I've left it all here in the great state of Minnesota and I have no regrets."

Kill's replacement, Claeks, is the Big Ten's third interim coach, joining Illinois' Bill Cubit and Maryland's Mike Locksley. It could be a very interesting off-season as the league could see historic turnover with coaches at Purdue, Indiana and Rutgers all in danger of being replaced.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* takes a look at football happenings around the Big Ten.

EAST DIVISION INDIANA

Perhaps the Hoosiers' bye week came at a good time. After all, IU is in the midst of a four-game losing streak that has significantly hurt the Hoosiers' chances of becoming bowl eligible.

Of those four losses, three were within one score at some point in the fourth quarter.

IU head coach Kevin Wilson continues to

EAST DIVISION

2015 Standings

Team	Overall	Conference
Ohio State	8-0	4-0
Michigan State	8-0	4-0
Penn State	7-2	4-1
Michigan	6-2	3-1
Rutgers	3-5	1-4
Indiana	4-4	0-4
Maryland	2-6	0-4

WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Iowa	8-0	4-0
Wisconsin	7-2	4-1
Northwestern	6-2	2-2
Illinois	4-4	1-3
Minnesota	4-4	1-3
Purdue	2-6	1-3
Nebraska	3-6	1-4

Oct. 31 Results

Purdue 55, Nebraska 44
Penn State 39, Illinois 0
Iowa 31, Maryland 15
Wisconsin 48, Rutgers 10
Michigan 29, Minnesota 26

Nov. 7 Games

Illinois at Purdue 11 a.m.
Penn State at Northwestern 11 a.m.
Wisconsin at Maryland 2:30 p.m.
Iowa at Indiana 2:30 p.m.
Rutgers at Michigan 2:30 p.m.
Michigan State at Nebraska 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Ohio State 7 p.m.

Nov. 14 Games

Nebraska at Rutgers TBD
Purdue at Northwestern TBD
Michigan at Indiana TBD
Maryland at Michigan State TBD
Ohio State at Illinois TBD
Minnesota at Iowa 7 p.m.

All times CT

think his team is close to a breakthrough.

However, the Hoosiers have been outscored 46-0 in the fourth quarter in their last two games.

"We can justify excuses or not, play calls or not, referees, elements, match-ups, freshmen – all those are just excuses," Wilson said. "At the end of the day, you're not far off, but we've got to keep coming and find more, because it's just not good enough yet."

MARYLAND

The Terps remain winless in Big Ten play and lost their fifth game in a row after falling behind at Iowa 21-0 at halftime.

Maryland did get a 100-yard kickoff return from Will Likely, but had just 74 yards passing.

The Terps got 104 yards rushing from Perry Hills, who was 11-of-20 passing. The bad part was Hills threw three interceptions, including one that Iowa cornerback Desmond King returned 88 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Hill did become the first Terp since Lance Ball in 2005 to rush for 100 yards in three-straight games.

Maryland's Brandon Ross also fumbled in Iowa territory on the Terps' opening drive.

MICHIGAN

After suffering one of the most unimaginable losses possible against Michigan State, the Wolverines found a way to win at Minnesota thanks to a last-second goal-line stand.

As redshirt freshman quarterback Wilton Speight said after the game the football gods smiled on Michigan Saturday night.

That they did.

The Wolverines appeared to lose the game when Drew Wolitarsky caught a 22-yard pass and appeared to score, which was the ruling on the field.

However, replay showed Wolitarsky's knee was down prior to the ball crossing the plane of the goal line with 19 seconds to play.

Michigan's defense stopped Minnesota on the next play, an incomplete pass and

then won the game when it stuffed Gopher quarterback Mitch Leidner on a sneak.

Speight came off the bench and threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Jehu Chesson with under five minutes to play, which proved to be the game-winner.

The victory gave the Wolverines possession of the Little Brown Jug.

MICHIGAN STATE

Michigan State's bye week came at the perfect time.

The Spartans are still unbeaten, but needed time off to try and get a little healthy although Mark Dantonio's team has had more significant, long-term injuries than any of his previous eight MSU teams combined.

Michigan State will enter November knowing if it wins its last four and posts a W in the Big Ten Championship Game then it will play in the four-team College Football Playoff.

The Spartans haven't been overly impressive this season, posting the miraculous finish at Michigan and winning close games against struggling Purdue and Rutgers. It will be interesting to see where MSU ranks when the College Football Playoff selection committee releases its first weekly rankings of the top 25 teams on Tuesday Nov. 3.

OHIO STATE

The Buckeyes are drawing some criticism about how they're handling the Barrett situation.

The school policy calls for a two-game suspension for a first positive violation by an underage student-athlete.

Smith, however, told the Columbus Dispatch that the suspension is for one game because it was a misdemeanor OVI.

Remember this is a program that has had notable one-game suspensions this season already as All-America defensive end Joey Bosa and Jalin Marshall, Dontre Wilson and Corey Smith all sat for the season opener after committing undisclosed violations of team rules.

You know in the coming days you'll hear about Urban Meyer's handling of past situations he's had with players.

Meyer came under attack for what was deemed a lawless culture when he was the head coach at Florida.

PENN STATE

It was the Christian Hackenberg show against Illinois.

The quarterback threw for 266 yards, including a pair of first-quarter touchdowns. Hackenberg even caught a touchdown pass from running back Nick Scott.

Joining Hackenberg with scores for the Nittany Lions were Saquon Barkley and Mark Allen on runs.

Barkley finished with 142 all-purpose yards.

"We're getting better," Penn State head coach James Franklin said.

RUTGERS

The Scarlet Knights' offense struggled in Madison.

Quarterback Chris Laviano was under constant pressure and completed a mere 4-of-14 passes for 31 yards and was intercepted once.

Rutgers' offense managed a season-low 165 yards.

Running back Josh Hicks was the only Scarlet Knight to have any kind of success. He ran for 72 yards on 15 carries.

Rutgers was without senior Leonte Carroo, who led the Big Ten with 346 yards receiving on 17 catches.

In their last two games, the Scarlet Knights have been outscored 97-17.

WEST DIVISION

ILLINOIS

Since beating Nebraska, the Illini have lost three-straight games, the last one being blown out in Happy Valley.

There was nothing positive out of the 39-point loss.

The Illini were held to just 167 yards - 37 yards rushing - and punted on 12 of their 15 possessions.

"They just dominated us," Cubit said. "They dominated every phase."

In its last two games, Illinois has gone a combined 9-of-33 on third downs.

What's concerning for Illini faithful is that the current three-game losing streak



JAKE GRANDALL/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Nebraska quarterback Ryker Fyfe of Grand Island picks up a block from lineman Zach Sterup of Hastings during the Purdue game.

is the fifth-straight year the program has had such a lengthy losing skid.

If Illinois is to get bowl eligible, it will have to win two of its last four regular-season games, and three of those are on the road.

IOWA

The Hawkeyes continue to have a season to remember.

They'll enter November unbeaten for just the second time in 17 seasons under head coach Kirk Ferentz.

With that said, Iowa did only manage 53 yards in the second half against Maryland.

"I don't know how good we are as a football team," Ferentz said. "But our guys are working hard and playing together. To move to 8-0, that's a pretty significant accomplishment. Hasn't been done a lot."

Ferentz's club was aided by a bye week as some key players got to heal from injuries.

LeShun Daniels had been hobbled since mid-September with a sprained ankle. He scored the game's first touchdown, a one-yard run.

MINNESOTA

Playing with a lot of emotion and

for Kill, the Golden Gophers put forth a valiant effort and looked as though they might have won one for Kill only to suffer a heartbreaking defeat.

People will question Minnesota's clock management in the game's waning seconds when it shifted into a shotgun formation wasting away precious seconds at the 1-yard line and throwing an incomplete pass before being stopped short of the goal line on the game's final play.

Claeys elected to go for the win over a potential tying field goal to send the game into overtime with the ball on the 1 and two seconds left.

Leidner threw for a career-high 317 yards and a touchdown.

NORTHWESTERN

You can say the Wildcats took full advantage of their bye week as they had a little bit of Halloween fun.

Head coach Pat Fitzgerald and the players got together to plan a surprise on the assistant coaches, dressing up in Halloween costumes for practice.

The plan created some classic videos on social media, especially The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles running through defensive drills.

PURDUE

Halloween 2015 won't soon be forgotten by Purdue head coach Darrell Hazell.

On Oct. 31, Hazell's Boilermakers knocked off visiting Nebraska to notch their first Big Ten home victory in Hazell's tenure in West Lafayette.

Purdue had not won a conference home game since 2012. The victory also snapped the Boilermakers' 12-straight losses to FBS programs.

The hero in the win was freshman quarterback David Blough, who accounted for five scores, including four touchdown passes to three different receivers.

WISCONSIN

The Badgers' running game is back thanks to the return of Corey Clement.

Against Rutgers, Clement returned from injury and rushed for three scores and 115 yards. It was his first game back in eight weeks.

"It felt great to be back out there," Clement said. "I couldn't ask for anything else from this game."

Clement hadn't played since the season opener against Alabama due to a groin injury, which required surgery.

"It was a bigger boost seeing him make some runs than just seeing him in the huddle," Wisconsin head coach Paul Chryst said.



Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photo courtesy of CU Athletics

BUFFALOED IN BOULDER

Colorado beats Huskers in punt game

Colorado 27, Nebraska 21

Nov. 4, 1989 in Boulder, Colo.

A nationally-televised audience tuned into CBS Sports to watch the Big Eight showdown between No. 2 Colorado and No. 3 Nebraska. Colorado was playing inspired football and credited their magical run to their teammate Sal Aunese, who died of cancer. Their season was dedicated to the former starting quarterback.

But it was the Cornhuskers who got off to the better start in a game that would have national championship implications.

After an interception by NU safety Tyrone Byrd gave the Huskers the ball at their 49-yard line, NU went to work on offense. But they only needed one play.

Quarterback Gerry Gdowski dropped back with the ball and set-up a screen pass to his fullback Bryan Carpenter. After the catch, Carpenter read the field perfectly, cutting back across it and ran untouched for a 51-yard touchdown.

The Big Red euphoria was short-lived as CU countered with a big play of its own when quarterback Darian Hagan and running back J.J. Flannigan converted a downfield option play for a 70-yard touchdown. After that play, Nebraska pretty much held the Buffaloes in check on offense for the rest of the game. Take away the 70-yard option play that Hagan had with Flannigan, NU did not allow a play of more than 17 yards to a Colorado offense that lived on big plays.

But the Buffaloes made the big plays in their punt game. Jeff Campbell ran three back for 108 yards. Meanwhile NU had three returns for only 23 yards.

Campbell's first return was a 47-yarder that put his team at the NU four. Hagan scored from the 1-yard line three plays later to put CU up 14-7 with 5:05 left in the first quarter. Then after Nebraska's first second-half possession, Campbell returned one 55 yards to the NU 19. Flannigan scored from the 2-yard line six plays later to give CU a 24-14 lead. Also contributing to their special teams advantage was CU punter Tom Rouen, who kicked five punts for a 51.2 average, the last was a 63-yarder to the NU 12 where the Huskers began their final offensive possession of the game.

"The kicking game was the difference in the ball game," said NU defensive back coach George Darlington. Leading up to the game, the difference maker was supposed to be Hagan but it was Nebraska's quarterback that stole the show.

Senior Gerry Gdowski, a Fremont, Nebraska native passed for career-highs with 211 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran 11 times for 69 yards. Hagan only passed for 22 yards on 2-of-10 passing and rushed 25 times for 86 yards.

"Gdowski played well," said NU head coach Tom Osborne. "There's a great football player."

With Colorado hanging on to a 27-21 lead, Gdowski and Nebraska had a final chance to win the game but had to go 88 yards with only 1:40 remaining. They drove to the Colorado 42 but a final desperation pass to the end zone fell incomplete.

"They have a great football team. But I think we have one too. I think these two teams today could play with any team in the country," Osborne said.



Colorado quarterback Darian Hagan was contained for most of the game.



f the game by the Blackshirts.



A Stroll Down Rasmussen Road With **KERRY WEINMASTER**

Football Player 1976-79

Column by Butch Rasmussen

Kerry Weinmaster had a plan long before he finished his high school football career that he was going to make it big time on somebody's Division 1-A college football team on the defensive line.

As a high school sophomore Weinmaster earned a second-place medal at the state wrestling tournament and throughout his high school career he was a powerful presence in the middle of the defensive line for coach Bob Starr at North Platte High School where he earned All-State honors in 1974 and 1975 and High School All-America honors in '75.

He was barely 6-feet tall, about 180 pounds but his reputation got around for his never-give-up attitude, quickness on his feet and his 4.7 speed in the 40-yard dash.

Weinmaster had scholarship offers from Kansas State, Oklahoma State and Wisconsin but as it turned out Tom Osborne was the lucky guy who got him to Lincoln.

Weinmaster had considerable playing time and lettered as a freshman with 19 tackles, and became a starter as a sophomore in 1977 while making 57 tackles at middle guard.

As a senior in 1979 Weinmaster earned All-Big 8 honors and second team All-America recognition ending his career with 165 tackles including 39 for loss.

Weinmaster said as he was growing up he was inspired by watching Husker middle guard Rich Glover on TV. Glover was dominant on the Husker defensive line during their national championship seasons of 1970



and '71.

"I idolized him," Weinmaster said.

Glover, who was 6-foot-1, 233 pounds finished third in the 1972 Heisman Trophy voting. He also was a winner of the Outland and Lombardi Trophies, and certainly was an inspiration to Weinmaster.

Weinmaster also mentioned the undersized Eddie Periard, a walk-on from Birch Run, Michigan.

Periard played for the Huskers from 1968 through 1970, was a walk-on player, earned three letters for the Huskers at middle guard, became a starter and get this: he was just 5-foot- 9 tall, weighed 198 pounds and led the 1970 Nebraska defense in the national championship game win over LSU with seven tackles.

Weinmaster seems to be content to leave his Husker career in mothballs. It took this writer

awhile to catch up with him, and he said he just tries to stick to his own business and blend into the background. He didn't seem to think that way when he was putting opposing ball carriers on their backs for the Husker football team 35 years ago..

When asked how often he talks to someone like me he said: "I did a newspaper interview about 10 years ago".

Memorabilia doesn't seem to be a big thing to Kerry.

"I have my helmet and I have a jersey on loan to a bar somewhere in Omaha," he said.

In a conversation former Husker I-back Rick Berns had with this writer regarding Berns' 1978 *Sports Illustrated* cover he called Weinmaster an undersized but gritty inspiration. When I mentioned it to him Weinmaster acted surprised and appreciative of that compliment coming from such a great Husker player.

Kerry married Linda in 1982 and they dated through their college years at UNL and Linda remembers with pride the day the North Platte Ambassadors hung the large banner at the north end of Memorial stadium in Lincoln and declared it Kerry Weinmaster Day with baseball caps, stickers to wear on clothing and a reception and dinner after the game.

Weinmaster's education was in History and Economics and after graduating in 1979 he spent 3 years as a grad assistant for coach Frank Solich before moving on to the business world with a company in Dallas, Texas in the automobile leasing business.

That was the beginning of a life as a sales representative. He's been married to Linda for 33 years – she's also a UNL grad – and their corporate transfers have taken them from Dallas to Ft. Lauderdale to Omaha, to Lawrence, Kansas, back to Omaha and to Castle Rock, Colorado where they've lived for the past 15 months.

Kerry and Linda have three adult sons, Phillip, Kyle and Adam. Phillip and Kyle were high school all-state football players in Lawrence, Kansas and played college football on the defensive line at Baker University in Baldwin, Kansas. They're law enforcement officers today.

Adam suffers from autism and lives happily at home with his parents.

Ask his opinion of today's Huskers and Kerry will tell you: "I don't know if they're snake bitten or what but one of these days man, when they're cooking on all cylinders, watch out"

HUSKERS

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Senior Alicia Ostrander will be continuing her athletic career at Nebraska following the volleyball season when she joins the women's basketball program.

Ostrander set to become **TWO-SPORT** athlete for volleyball, basketball

Story by Bob Hamar • Photos by Mitch Otto & Jimmy Rash

Alicia Ostrander's volleyball career is winding down.

The senior from Gordon, Neb., has just a limited number of matches left with the Husker volleyball team. Her role this year, like it has been throughout her career, has been to come in when needed at any of the three positions up front.

"It's pretty much been that way my whole career," Ostrander said.

Ostrander was an accomplished basketball player at Gordon-Rushville High School where she set numerous records such as 30 rebounds in a game, 360 rebounds in a season and 994 for her career. She also set single-game records in points (43) and blocks (15).

Not only that, but she was a three-time state qualifier in track and field, including the triple jump as a sophomore and high jump as a junior and senior. Playing all those sports, and living so far from the metropolitan areas, may have hindered her volleyball development, but Ostrander doesn't regret that one bit.

"It's just where I'm from," she said. "A lot of these girls didn't get to play basketball and do track and play softball in the summer. I definitely don't regret it. I had to work harder and learn faster."

Now she'll have to work hard and learn fast in preparation for her next college sport. Ostrander plans to join Connie Yori's Husker basketball team after volleyball is done.

It all started last spring when Ostrander met with volleyball coach John Cook. She mentioned that she really enjoyed sand volleyball and might want to transfer after the Husker hard-court season was over to someplace with a longer sand season. She also mentioned it might be neat to play college basketball somewhere.

"Obviously I wanted to play here but I didn't think that was an option," Ostrander said. "He was like, 'You want me to talk to Coach Yori and see what she says?'"

Yori was interested, so Ostrander went to meet with the coach.

"I felt like when I was in my freshman year in high school and going on college visits in the coach's office. I was so scared," Ostrander said. "I couldn't think of anything to say. I don't know if she noticed that, but she was down for it."

Ostrander practiced with the basketball team all summer, but had to bow out when they went to Australia in August because two-a-days for volleyball were about to start.

Cook said he was all for Ostrander playing basketball.

"She's basically done with school so she's going to be on a very light academic load," Cook said. "I just think it's a really cool story. It's Gordon, Nebraska. A walk-on and she's ending up a two-sport athlete her senior season. I just think that's really cool. This is why we say 'dream big' at Nebraska."

Ostrander may never have dreamed that her college volleyball career would include two years as a captain for the Huskers. She was a captain as a junior, and Cook named her and setter Kelly Hunter as co-captains for this season.

"When Alicia talks, everybody listens. Including the coaches," Cook said. "She's wise. She's got experience. She has life experience, volleyball experience, she's been around. She's been a walk-on. She's been a starter. She's played great. She's played bad. She's kind of been through it all. When she talks, they listen and I think she has a really high level of respect from our team."

Now Ostrander will get a chance to show what she can do on the basketball floor. She'll become one of a handful of Husker volleyball players to also play basketball including Laura Pilakowski, Lisa Reitsma and Renee Saunders. Ostrander probably would have played college basketball somewhere if she hadn't had the opportunity to play volleyball at Nebraska.

"I was big into basketball. I love the game," Ostrander said. "But I love volleyball to and obviously love Nebraska volleyball."

2015 Schedule		
Nebraska Invite at Devaney Center		
Aug. 28 Tulsa	W, 3-0	(1-0)
Aug. 29 Grand Canyon	W, 3-0	(2-0)
Aug. 29 Pittsburgh	W, 3-1	(3-0)

Vertical Challenge at Austin, Texas		
Sept. 4 Texas	L, 3-2	(3-1)
Sept. 5 Oregon	W, 3-2	(4-1)

Ameritas Challenge at Devaney Center		
Sept. 11 UC Davis	W, 3-0	(5-1)
Sept. 12 USF	W, 3-0	(6-1)
Sept. 12 Georgia Tech	W, 3-0	(7-1)

Sept. 15 at Creighton	W, 3-0	(8-1)
Sept. 19 at Iowa State	W, 3-1	(9-1)
Sept. 23 at Iowa	W, 3-0	(10-1)
Sept. 26 Iowa	W, 3-0	(11-1)
Oct. 2 at Penn State	W, 3-2	(12-1)
Oct. 3 at Ohio State	L, 3-2	(12-2)
Oct. 7 Mich. State	W, 3-1	(13-2)
Oct. 10 Michigan	W, 3-1	(14-2)
Oct. 16 at Northwestern	W, 3-0	(15-2)
Oct. 17 at Illinois	W, 3-0	(16-2)
Oct. 23 Minnesota	L, 3-1	(16-3)
Oct. 24 Wisconsin	L, 3-1	(16-4)
Oct. 30 Rutgers	W, 3-0	(17-4)
Oct. 31 Maryland	W, 3-0	(18-4)
Nov. 4 at Purdue	6 p.m.	
Nov. 7 at Indiana	6 p.m.	
Nov. 11 at Mich. State	6 p.m.	
Nov. 14 at Maryland	6 p.m.	
Nov. 18 Indiana	7 p.m.	
Nov. 21 at Michigan	6:30 p.m.	
Nov. 25 Illinois	7 p.m.	
Nov. 28 Penn State	7 p.m.	
Dec. 4-5 NCAA 1st, 2nd Rds TBD		
Dec. 11-12 NCAA Regionals - TBD		
Dec. 17 NCAA Semis at Omaha		
Dec. 19 NCAA Final at Omaha		



NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photo by Mitch Otto

NOT SO HOME COOKING

For years Nebraska enjoyed a huge home-court advantage at the NU Coliseum. The home-court edge hasn't been quite the same since they moved into the Devaney Center at the start of the 2013 season.

The Huskers lost three times that season, all to very good teams. They fell to Purdue and Penn State in the regular season and then Texas in a regional final.

Last year Nebraska dropped back-to-back matches to Florida State and Stanford to open the season. That was followed later by losses at home to Texas, Ohio State and Illinois.

This year, the Huskers dropped back-to-back Big Ten matches at home for the first time when they fell to Minnesota and Wisconsin on back-to-back nights in October at the Devaney Center.

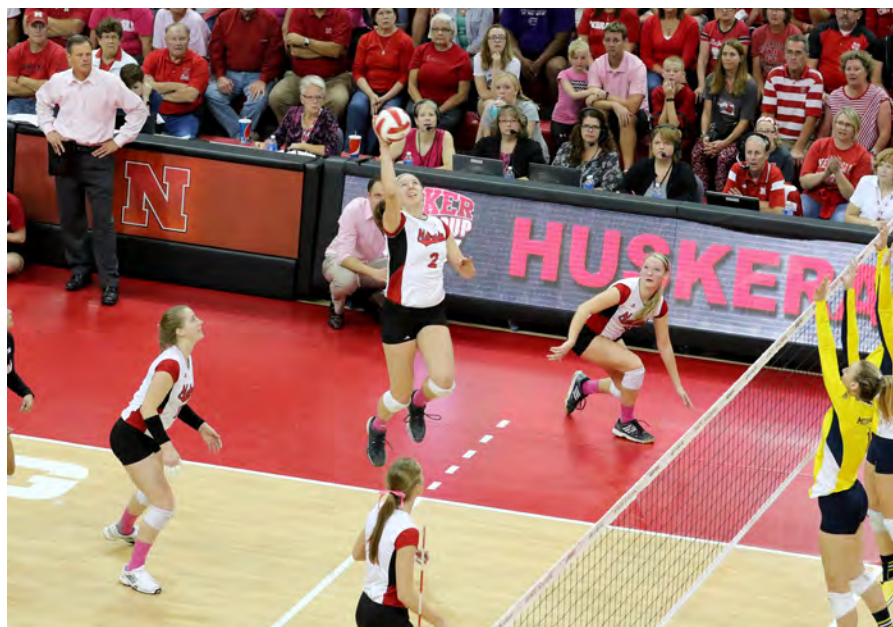
Nebraska was ranked third in the nation at the time and tied with Minnesota for the Big Ten lead, but coach John Cook said that's just life in the Big Ten.

"I think teams are coming in here and they have nothing to lose," he said. "They're playing Nebraska and it's a great environment and it helps them."

The Oct. 26 AVCA Top 25 ratings featured eight Big Ten teams. Penn State Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio State and Wisconsin were all in the top 12.

"This is the Big Ten. I don't care where you're ranked or what your record is, all these teams are going to compete their butts off and they're going to come here and play hard," Cook said. "We were at the top of the standings. We were ranked third in the country. We're going to get team's best shot. They come in and they have nothing to lose, and that's the way it's always going to be."

Penn State coach Russ Rose could certainly understand that. The Nittany Lions, who have won six national titles in the last eight years, have been deal-



ing with that for years.

The Nittany Lions have handled those expectations pretty well, but not every team can do that.

"You see teams that all of a sudden get some expectations and look what happens to them," Cook said. "All of a sudden they start losing matches they shouldn't because they have the bullseye on their back. You see it all the time."

The Huskers have been seeing it and dealing with those expectations and the stress that comes with it.

"It's hard to be on top," Cook said. "It's hard to be good. It's hard to wear Nebraska. But that's part of it. When you come to this program you have to be able to handle it."

CHANGES OVER THE YEARS

Cook said coaching is different now than it was 15 years ago. That's because the players are different.

"If you talk to most coaches, they're finding the same challenges," Cook said. "Kids today don't really know how to deal with failure very well. They don't know how to resolve conflicts with each other. They don't come in very equipped and we have to teach

them."

Cook said it's not necessarily harder to coach now than it was then. It's just different. Cook noticed that when several players from the 2005 team were in Lincoln recently.

"When I hang around with those 2005 players it's a different vibe and they notice it," Cook said. "We have work to do. It's a different generation, a different culture. We have to teach them how to be tough and how to deal with adversity."

ROLFZEN'S RIGHT SIDE PLAY

Cook said he's seen good things from junior Kadie Rolfzen since she moved from the left side to the right earlier this season.

Rolfzen continued to lead the Huskers in kills per set even after making the move.

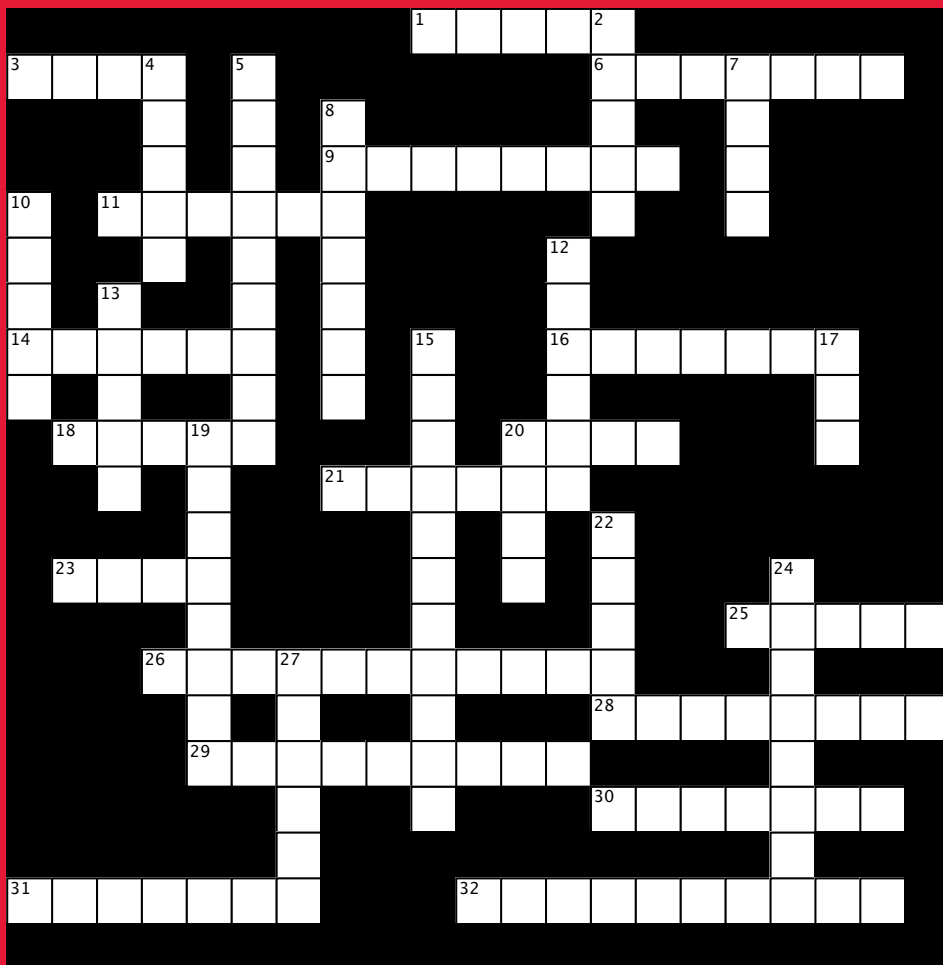
She was also second for the season to libero Justine Wong-Orantes in digs per set.

"She's putting up good numbers," Cook said. "She's getting a lot of digs. Her blocking has been pretty good. We move her around. I think we can do a better job of moving her around. I think she's been really solid."

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. 2011 All-America linebacker
3. Ex-Husker offensive lineman now with Washington Redskins
6. Mike Riley's alma mater
9. Jordan Westerkamp's home state
11. 2017 non-conference opponent
14. Wears No. 10 (offense)
16. Nov. 14 opponent
18. Leading rusher vs. Northwestern
20. Wears No. 10 (defense)
21. Michigan State's bowl game after 2014 season
23. Special teams coordinator
25. Bowl game after 2013 season
26. 2016 non-conference opponent
28. Michigan State nickname
29. True freshman kickoff returner
30. Former Michigan State assistant, later head coach at NU
31. Head football strength coach
32. 2015 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee



DOWN

2. Wears No. 23 (defense)
4. Recorded first career solo sack vs. Northwestern
5. Ex-Michigan State head coach in College Football Hall of Fame
7. Linebackers coach
8. Brandon Reilly's hometown
10. Ex-Michigan State star who played in Police Academy movies
12. Wears No. 8 (offense)
13. Michigan State school color
15. Michigan State campus location
17. 2009 Outland Trophy winner
19. Leading tackler vs. Northwestern
20. Ex-Husker punter now with Baltimore Ravens
22. Wears No. 8 (defense)
24. Michigan State head coach
27. Wears No. 57 (offense)

NOVEMBER 7 PUZZLE



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